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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the least and 5 the most, how safe do you feel inside your homes these days?

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INSIDE

BUSINESS



John McAfee said he wants to return to the United States.

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Number of people missing after a typhoon devastated the Philippines jumps to nearly 900. ► PAGE 18

LIFE & STYLE



Mexican-American superstar Jenni Rivera is feared dead in plane crash. ► PAGE 20

Court urged to cite CNMI govt for contempt. **PAGE 3**
'Open meeting with SDLLC on power plant deal' **PAGE 6**

Trader dispels rumors; offers reward

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

A businessman who owns and operates several establishments on island appeared in public yesterday to dispel rumors of his death, which surfaced after news broke out about a couple who were found dead in their San Vicente residence.

Wei Duong Guo, in an interview at the *Saipan Tribune* office yesterday, also offered a reward of \$1,000 in addition to the same amount being offered by NMI Crime Stoppers to anyone with information that would help in the arrest of those responsible for the gruesome crime.

Guo is the owner of American Herbal Essence Group Corp. and Hen Qi Li Corp., which runs Pretty Market, Pretty Kitchen, Pretty Host, and Pretty Tour, among other businesses on Saipan.

Guo, through his friend Norman Xing who served as translator, said the report

about his death rapidly circulated on Sunday and he has no idea where or how the rumor started.

"Mr. Guo is alive and doing well. His

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RELATED NEWS

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'Feds willing to pursue Buckingham'



Buckingham

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) said the U.S. Department of Justice would be willing to pursue former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham, who has been declared a fugitive from justice, but the CNMI has yet to initiate the process to extradite him. The CNMI Office of the Attorney General, meanwhile, said yesterday it looks forward to any federal assistance in this or any criminal case.

The delegate wrote a letter to Attorney General Joey

» **CNMI yet to initiate process**

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No contract, no commitment on \$80M ferry

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

An \$80-million ice-breaking ferry and a roll-on/roll-off ferry separately reported in recent days refer to the same vessel named the *Susitna* in Alaska and, according to the Fitial administration this weekend, the CNMI has not committed any funds nor signed any contract on this. It added that this undertaking "could not be pursued without widespread community support," although a federally funded feasibility study on the expansion of marine passenger and cargo services has started.

Lawmakers separately said an interisland ferry service is "worth looking at" but cautioned against making any com-

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OPEN FORUM

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services-Honolulu district director David Gulick, seated left, answers questions during a free forum on the transitional Commonwealth-only worker program, immediate relative parole and related issues at the American Memorial Park Auditorium in Garapan on Saturday. The two-hour forum was sponsored by the U.S. Pinoys for Good Governance-Marianas Chapter led by its chairperson Dr. Celia Lamkin, third from left.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

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December
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Local

MCS saddened by tragedy, assures cooperation

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Mount Carmel School president Galvin Deleon Guerrero said yesterday that the institution is deeply saddened by the recent tragedy that took the lives of the parents of one of their students. He vowed to extend the full assistance and cooperation of the school in the ongoing investigation of the case.

The decomposing bodies of the parents of a 6-year-old male student from MCS were found by authorities Saturday noon in the family's residence in San Vicente. The case is classified as a homicide but no arrest has been

made at press time.

The boy is currently in the custody of the Division of Youth Services, which took the child since Thursday afternoon after the boy's parents failed to pick him up from school.

"Mount Carmel School is deeply saddened by the recent tragedy that took the lives of two of our parents and left one of our students orphaned. We thank our faculty and staff who not only diligently followed school procedures in responding to the situation, but went to



Deleon Guerrero

great lengths to ensure the safety and welfare of our students," said Deleon Guerrero.

He also extended his appreciation and gratitude to DYS, Department of Public Safety, and Office of the Attorney General

for their responsiveness and willingness to help and support the school and the affected family. According to Deleon Guerrero, the MCS faculty, staff, and administration remain committed to helping their students and all involved move forward through this difficult time. This

includes providing any grief counseling needed, reinforcing the school's safety procedures, and assisting law enforcement with the investigation.

"We ask everyone for their continued support and to keep all the victims of this tragedy in their prayers. In the face of evil, we must always remember to keep our faith, cling to hope, and embrace love," added Deleon Guerrero.

Police discovered the bodies of the couple at their home on Saturday afternoon. It is believed that the killings occurred after the couple arrived home after dropping off their son at school.



A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.



2012 DFS Road Show Gala Event

The **Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA)** joined the **2012 DFS Group China Road Show Gala Events** in October to broadly promote Northern Marianas' travel resources to northern and eastern China's leading travel agents, MICE planners, and industry partners.

The gala event was held on Oct. 15, 2012, at **Beijing Wangfujing Hilton** with 150 delegates in attendance and was held on Oct. 18, 2012, at **Shanghai Portman Ritz-Carlton** with 200 delegates in attendance.

As one of the world's leading luxury retailer catering to international travelers, DFS led the even to jointly promote **DFS Galleria Saipan** and destination tourism resources.

In FY 2012, the Northern Marianas received 78,928 visitors from China, an increase of 70 percent compared to the previous fiscal year.



This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

Anniversary

GRAND NIGHT RAFFLE

will be this

Friday, December 14, 2012

at 8:30pm

Federal court urged to cite CNMI govt for contempt

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund wants the federal court to issue a contempt order and punish the CNMI government for allegedly violating court orders pertaining to issues and the operation of the pension agency.

In a six-page document filed yesterday by Fund counsels Berman O'Connor & Mann, Daniel J. Berman, and Brad-dock J. Huesman, the lawyers claimed that the government has acted contrary to and in

defiance of a court order that granted sole and exclusive powers over the Fund to trustee ad litem Joseph Razzano.

This came about after Gov. Benigno R. Fitial appointed new members to the Fund board of trustees, whose functions are currently in the hands of the court-appointed trustee ad litem.

Fitial appointed Alvaro Santos and Martin DLG. San Nicolas to the Fund board on Nov. 14 this year, subject to Senate confirmation. The governor later withdrew Santos' nomination

and replaced the appointee with Jose Limes.

The Fund counsels disclosed that a letter was delivered to the Office of the Attorney General on Dec. 4 which detailed the Fund's request for written acknowledgement that the CNMI actions and governor nominations of the appointees were merely "a precaution in the event that the District Court declines to exercise jurisdiction over the case (Johnson v. Fitial, et al)." The Fund gave a deadline for the OAG to assure the agency that the CNMI will not

act in civil disobedience or attempt action that would violate the federal court order.

The OAG allegedly failed to offer the Fund any written confirmation or acknowledgment that the CNMI would rethink its actions and "discontinue its attempts to destabilize the Fund and transfer power from the ad litem to any newly formed board of trustees" should the nominees be confirmed.

"The governor's submission of the nominees to the Legislature has provoked further work and aggravation in the Fund for the [trustee ad litem], the Fund employees, agents and staff, insofar as legislative requests for testimony, response to the public questions and request for information from the Fund distract and destabilize the opera-

tions of the Fund," the Fund's lawyers said.

Moreover, the Fund counsels claimed that the government has openly demonstrated that it will not obey orders to pay for legal fees. They specifically cited court orders on Sept. 14 and Nov. 30 this year as decisions being violated by the government. Both orders pertain to the authority given by court to the ad litem.

"The CNMI and its AAG should understand, but appar-

ently do not, that the orders of court thus far entered on their plain and clear terms were intended to only persuade the CNMI to support the Fund and its trustee ad litem. The NMI should only engage in cooperative and assisting conduct. But instead, the most recent step taken by the CNMI is yet one more step backwards in the same contrarian direction down the path of obstruction and destabilization," the Fund stated in its court filing.

Susupe Beach Park renamed

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos signed into local law a measure renaming Susupe Beach Park to the Vicente Pacho Masga Sablan Susupe Beach Park, putting to rest months of arguments for and against the proposal.

Susupe Beach Park is located near Kanoa Resort, formerly Saipan Grand Hotel, in Susupe.

Inos said he reviewed the comments submitted and acknowledged the public hearings held on the bill. A legislative panel assigned to review the local bill also left it with the full delegation to decide on the matter. Inos also acknowledged the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation's passage of the bill based on the positions presented during the public hearings.

"I trust the members approved this measure as representatives of the residents of Saipan and the Northern Islands and as such, I

approve this measure," Inos said in his Dec. 6 message to delegation chair Rep. Ray Tebuteb (IR-Saipan) and House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan).

House Local Bill 17-78, Draft 1 is now Saipan Local Law 17-17.

The bill's main sponsor is Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan).

Ignacio Demapan, a Susupe resident and the governor's special assistant for Indigenous Affairs, expected the local bill to be vetoed because of opposition from some members of the public but he said he respects the acting governor's decision.

"We have to respect the acting governor's decision. For me, it's no big deal now, nothing spectacular for me to continue thinking about it," he told *Saipan Tribune* in a phone interview. Demapan was among those opposed to the proposed renaming of the beach park.

Vicente "Pacho" Masga Sablan served as a member of the House of Representative for

five consecutive terms representing Precinct 2 starting in the 2nd Legislature. The late Sablan served the CNMI government for over 20 years, starting with the Department of Finance from 1970 to 1972.

NMC English and math placement tests

The Northern Marianas College will be conducting English and math placement tests on the following dates:

English Placement Test Schedule

■ Dec. 11, Tuesday: 9am – 4pm, Room W-4

■ Dec. 12, Wednesday: 9am – 4pm, Room W-4

■ Dec. 13, Thursday: 9am – 4pm, Room W-4

■ Dec. 14, Friday: 9am – 4pm, Room W-4

Math Placement Test Schedule

■ Dec. 17, Monday: 2pm – 4pm, Room A-7

■ Dec. 18, Tuesday: 10am – 12pm, Room A-7

Those who wish to take courses at NMC must take the placement tests. Registration for NMC's Intersession Term will take place from Dec. 18 to Dec. 19, 2012.

There is a \$25 fee for each placement test that must be paid in advance at the NMC Cashier (Monday – Friday, 8:30am – 4pm). No one will be allowed into the testing room without proof of payment (a receipt for the placement test fee or the NMC application fee). Payment for the application fee will cover the English placement test fee. Students who have a fee waiver must obtain a placement test slip from the Office of Admis-

sions and Records prior to taking the test.

Test takers must also bring a valid photo ID (driver's license, passport or school ID) and pencils. No admittance to the testing room will be allowed after the starting time.

Those who wish to take the English placement test are strongly encouraged to contact NMC Testing Coordinator Daniel Kintol to schedule an appointment. "Walk-in" test takers will also be accommodated based on seat availability. The average time to complete the English placement test is between 1.5 and 2.5 hours.

To schedule an appointment to take the English placement test or for more information, contact NMC Testing Coordinator Daniel Kintol at 234-5398 Ext. 2351 or visit Building W.

Calculators may be used when taking the math placement test. Test takers are not allowed to take the math placement test more than once. The only exception to this condition is for those who have *not* taken a math class within one year of taking the math placement test.

If you have any questions about the math placement test, call the Sciences, Mathematics, Health & Athletics Dept. at 234-5498 Ext. 1202 or 1212. (NMC)

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Wishing our first-born Jobe Anthony Reyes a happy, happy birthday as he celebrates his special day today. Wishing you many, many more happiness and many, many more blessed years to come. Love, Mommy, Daddy, the boyz, your friends, and families.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



UNWRAP
the possibilities

December
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New Store Hours • Wireless Express Center (TSL Plaza) Tuesday to Saturday • 10:00AM - 6:00PM



Cutz & Colours His & Her Salon owner Marcia E. Ayuyu, standing fourth left, is flanked by family members, island leaders, and other guests at the salon's grand opening on Dec. 7.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Cutz & Colours holds grand opening

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Cutz & Colours His & Her Salon was bustling with activity Friday as dozens of customers and supporters attended their grand opening ceremony.

The program began with the offering of prayers by Fr. Rey D. Rosal, San Vicente Parish priest, who blessed each room with holy water. Following the blessing, guests then enjoyed refreshments prepared by Cutz & Colours management.

Salon owner Marcia E. Ayuyu said regular and new customers kept coming in throughout the day to get pampered, availing of the 30-percent discounted rates for all services to mark the opening and transfer to a new and spacious location in Dandan.

Cutz & Colours is a full-service uni-

sex salon that offers hair, massage, and facial services at competitive rates.

"It's amazing how people just keep coming in and our phone was ringing nonstop for more appointments as soon as they found out about our grand opening and our promotions. It's a great day," Ayuyu told *Saipan Tribune*.

Friday's event also saw the salon's launch of nail art, an additional service offered only on weekends, and Ayuyu encouraged customers to make appointments in advance as their nail artist is getting booked fast.

To make an appointment or for more information, visit Cutz & Colours at Suite 2 at the ground floor of RJ Building across from Joeten Dandan or call 235-1990. They are open Monday to Saturday from 9am to 7pm and Sunday from 12pm to 7pm.

FEDS

From Page 1

Patrick San Nicolas last week, immediately after the CNMI Supreme Court denied Buckingham's petition to overturn the trial court's order declaring him a fugitive from justice.

Sablan said he has been in communication with U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder and U.S. Attorney Alicia Limtiaco concerning the Buckingham case.

"[I] have been informed that the Department of Justice would be willing to pursue Mr. Buckingham. A request from you, as the head prosecution authority of the Commonwealth, to U.S. Attorney Limtiaco would be necessary, however, to initiate Mr. Buckingham's capture. Your request would also have to state that the Northern Marianas is willing to expend the resources necessary to extradite the fugitive Buckingham, once he is apprehended," Sablan told San Nicolas in a Dec. 5 letter, a copy of which was obtained yesterday.

San Nicolas, when asked for comment yesterday, said he appreciates Sablan's support and "look[s] forward to any federal assistance that can be provided to the Office of the Attorney General in this or any criminal case."

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (IR-Saipan), at the same time, said a resolution he

pre-filed in September asking Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and then acting AG Viola Alepuyo to initiate proceedings for Buckingham's extradition "has been languishing" in the House.

Dela Cruz said he still looks forward to the former AG's extradition.

"My resolution has been languishing in the clerk's office because the speaker is reluctant to call a session. If he does call one in this lame duck Legislature, then I'm ready to make necessary changes to the resolution. I just hope that AG San Nicolas will do the right thing and send the letter to Mr. Holder. The people of the NMI are all counting on Mr. San Nicolas," Dela Cruz told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Sablan also has a similar message to San Nicolas.

"I know that you are well aware of the significance the public places on the Buckingham case and that you committed during your confirmation hearing to take appropriate action. I encourage you to follow through on that commitment and wanted you to know that federal authorities have expressed a willingness to assist you in bringing Mr. Buckingham to justice," he told the AG.

On Dec. 5, the Supreme Court denied Buckingham's petition to overturn the trial court's order declaring him a fugitive from justice.

The underlying criminal case against

Buckingham arose from criminal information obtained by the Office of the Public Auditor.

Though initial attempts at service of the penal summons were unsuccessful, Federal Bureau of Investigation special agent Hae Jun Park ultimately served Buckingham just before Buckingham boarded a plane and left the CNMI on Aug. 4.

That was also a day after he and the governor signed a no-bid \$190.8-million diesel power purchase agreement with Saipan Development LLC. That PPA is under a temporary injunction.

Fitial's failure to remove Buckingham and the \$190.8-million power deal were among the issues cited in a defeated resolution impeaching the governor for 16 allegations of corruption, neglect of duty, and felony.

The incoming House supermajority is poised to re-introduce an impeachment resolution as early as January.

Lawmakers, other government officials and community members want Buckingham to be brought back to the CNMI to face the criminal charges filed against him by OPA, including those in connection with his hosting of a political campaign in 2010, and obstruction of justice in August 2012 when he allegedly asked the use of police and ports police officers to shield him from being served a penal summons.

TRADER

From Page 1

family is also okay. But our hearts go to the family of the Asian couple who was found dead over the weekend," said Xing.

Department of Public Safety officers discovered two human bodies in a state of decomposition Sunday afternoon.

The dead male and female are believed to be the parents of a 6-year-old first grader, who has been in the custody of the Division of Youth Services since Thursday night after the young boy was not picked up at school.

Guo said he has been busy working at his office since Thursday, adding that he is not related to the dead couple whose names have yet to be released by DPS pending notification of the couple's next of kin.

"There's been too much rumor[s] going around that Mr. Guo decided to come out and issue a statement," explained Xing, adding that anyone who wants to contact Guo may call 285-8588.

"We urge the authorities to put their best effort to get hold of the suspect and

solve this horrible crime," he added.

No suspect

Meanwhile, a statement issued yesterday by DPS said it does not have any reason to believe that the double homicide case is a random crime.

While police do not have any suspects yet, a special task force has been organized to investigate the case and DPS has reached out for assistance to the Commonwealth Ports Police, Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the CNMI Office of Homeland Security.

Police said Dr. Aurelio Espinola, Guam chief medical examiner, arrived Sunday night to conduct an autopsy on the two bodies. However, the cause of death will not be released, along with the names of the victims and their son, due to proper notification of the next of kin.

DPS also reminded the public, including the media, regarding the release of certain details of the crime that might jeopardize the ongoing investigation and threaten the safety of the child.

CONTRACT

From Page 1

mitment to buy one without thorough analysis.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked for comment, said the CNMI was initially approached on the ferry proposal by Saipan resident Ambrose Bennett and David Oliver of the Seahurst Group. The communication between the CNMI government and the owners of the ferry started around August.

He said Bennett and Oliver's proposal was to transfer the ferry to the CNMI "at no cost; however, the Commonwealth would have to assume the underlying grant and financial requirements to operate the vessel as a ferry." Bennett is a retired Kagman teacher.

Jim Stump, the governor's legal counsel, was requested to examine the feasibility of use of the ferry to service the CNMI's needs, the press secretary said.

"However, after a brief examination by Mr. Stump, he recommended to the governor that this form of undertaking required careful consideration and

detailed analysis before agreeing to accept any vessel," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

He said it was at this point that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Stump determined that the proper approach in examining the feasibility of ferry operations was to use a four-step process that they already earlier explained.

These are:

1. Detailed examination of the economic feasibility of expansion of marine passenger and cargo services between the islands of Guam, Rota, Tinian, and Saipan;

2. Identification of federal grants that could aid in reducing operational and capital costs;

3. Development of a proposed business plan; and

4. Development of pilot program.

"All of these steps will involve extensive public scrutiny of cost, feasibility, and environmental impact and could not be pursued without widespread community support. No commitment of funds or contract was ever made or offered by the Commonwealth in regards to the Alaskan vessel," Demapan said.

The administration earlier said it in-

formed the owners of the ferry that the CNMI is "not interested in this matter" because of the need for thorough and complete review.

House minority leader Joe DeLeon Guerrero (IR-Saipan) said yesterday that an interisland transportation is "worth looking at," given the need to reduce the costs of commodities on Rota, as well as Tinian.

"This is worth looking at but like I said before, that we conduct a study before committing to something," he said. He added that it would be a "mistake" if the administration is already looking at any particular "ferry" at this time.

"It has to be studied first. And then get through the process; get the best vessel at a low cost," he added.

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (IR-Saipan) and Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) also had said that, while they support interisland ferry service, they caution the government against committing to something without a full economic analysis, like the sole-source \$190.8-million diesel power purchase agreement that the governor and former attorney general Edward Buckingham signed with Saipan Development LLC. That PPA is under a temporary

injunction.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP), for his part, said it's an insult that the CNMI people would first hear about the CNMI's interest in buying a ferry from outside the CNMI.

Demapan said the Fitial administration strongly believes in the need for an expansion of marine infrastructure and services among Tinian, Saipan, Rota, and Guam as this is critical to meeting the community's needs.

"However, the governor has adopted the four-point plan in pursuing this objective in order to ensure that this matter program is properly considered," he said.

The U.S. Department of Transportation awarded the CNMI a grant to implement the first step: examination of the feasibility of expansion of marine passenger and cargo services.

"This study will examine the economics of expanded marine serves among the islands and provide the Commonwealth with information on alternative routes, projected demand, costs, revenues, compatibility with harbor facilities and private services, availability of grants, and the most appropriate vessel for these services,"

Demapan said.

This study, which is expected to be completed within the first quarter of 2013, will provide the administration and the public with credible analysis on the costs, hurdles, and feasibility of this concept.

"From this information, the administration, with the support of the community, can make decisions on whether to pursue this concept further," Demapan added.

The \$80-million *Susitna* was supposed to be home in Mat-Su Borough in Alaska but it has remained in Ward Cove near the Ketchikan shipyard where it was built. The *Susitna* would have traveled 4,500 miles to reach the CNMI.

The vessel was borne out of a unique partnership between the U.S. Navy, which wanted a prototype for a fast military landing craft, and Alaska's Mat-Su Borough, which wanted an ice-breaking ferry to transport commuters across Knik Arm, but the ferry has never been put to work.

National media quoted Emerson Krueger, who has become the borough's point man on the ferry project, as saying that the borough wants to cut its losses and give the boat to the CNMI.

3,190 yet to get CW permits; USCIS answers more questions

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

While thousands are now preparing to renew their transitional Commonwealth-only worker permits, 3,190 others are still waiting for their initial CW-1 permits as of Dec. 4. Many others still have lingering questions that U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services-Honolulu district director David Gulick answered during a free forum on USCIS' parole extension for those with U.S. citizen immediate relatives and related issues.

Isabel Magpoc, 52, said she's one of the 3,190 foreign workers still waiting for a CW-1 permit, 13 months after her employer filed a petition for her and seven months since her biometrics appointment.

Those still waiting for their CW permits comprise 26 percent of the 12,302 foreign workers petitioned from Oct. 7 through Dec. 4.

By the end of the transition period on Dec. 31, 2014, the number of CW-1 permit holders is supposed to be "zero" under the U.S. law that placed CNMI immigration under federal control. The transition period, however, can be extended by the U.S. Secretary of Labor.

"I'm hoping I will be able to get it before Christmas or before New Year. I am not so worried, but it would be nice to have something you can hold on to, a permit," Magpoc, a house worker, told *Saipan Tribune*.

Magpoc said if the CW petition filed on her behalf is denied, she would want to know whether she could apply for a parole instead, since she has a 7-year-old U.S. citizen son.

This and other topics were discussed during Saturday's forum sponsored by the U.S. Pinoys for Good Governance-Marianas Chapter.

Among the questions raised was whether those with CW-1 status can be granted parole, to which Gulick said "no."

"Because if they've been admitted to the United States, they cannot be granted parole in the United States. You cannot change from being an admitted to a parole status. The law does not provide for that," he said.

Those whose CW-1 petitions were denied could apply for parole, but only if there is a basis for them to apply for parole, Gulick said. One such reason to apply for parole after a CW-1 petition was denied could be having a minor U.S. citizen child or an immediate relative of a U.S. citizen. Still, there is no guarantee that such parole application would be granted. It is on a case-by-case basis.

Gulick said USCIS has granted some 900 paroles since last year.

Dr. Celia Lamkin, chairperson of the U.S. Pinoys for Good Governance-Marianas Chapter, led the hosting of the free forum on USCIS' parole extension for those with U.S. citizen immediate relatives, deferred status, and the CW program. It was held at American Memorial Park auditorium in Garapan from 10am to 12pm on Saturday, with dozens of nonresidents and residents in attendance.

Those who will apply for a recently announced two-year parole for immediate relatives of U.S. citizens should also make sure they have a valid employment authorization document, or EAD, which is good for only a year. That means they would have to renew their EAD twice in the two-year period their IR parole is valid.

"An extension of an EAD is always a new EAD. So after they get their extension of parole granted, they can apply for a new EAD... We're told under our rules right now, an EAD for a parolee would be for one year. They have to apply again during the two-year period," Gulick said.

If a person has a valid EAD but has been granted CW-1 or H1B, that person's EAD becomes invalid, Gulick said during the forum and interview with the media later.

"If they still have a valid EAD at the time they're granted CW status, or H1B status, even though the EAD is still valid in terms of time... the purpose for which it was granted no longer applies and that EAD becomes not valid, and their employment authorization then becomes their CW-1 or H1B status," Gulick said.

Gulick, during the forum, reiterated the points he made during his previous days' presentation at the Society for Human Resource Management-NMI Chapter, including applying for CW renewal at least 90 days prior to the expiration of the original CW-1 permit.

CW-1 permit holders would have to stop working—but can remain in the CNMI—while their CW permit renewal application remains pending past the expiration date of their original permit, Gulick said.

Without a valid permit past the original CW permit expiration date, the alien worker "no longer has employment authorization."

Gulick said the current 15,000 cap is a major reason behind this early application recommendation.

He reiterated that while USCIS recommends renewal application to be filed at least 90 days prior to expiration, the regulations allow for application for new and renewal of CW permit six months ahead of expected start date or expiration of the original CW permit.

"Our regulations allow an employer to file for CW -1 petition for an employee with a start date within six months, so they can actually file right now for somebody they want to have in April 2013 or May 2013. That would apply for an extension request," he said.

When asked whether em-

ployees can demand continued salary from their employer during the time they are not supposed to work because their CW renewal application is still pending, Gulick said this is something that would have to be discussed with attorneys, among others.

Latest statistics

Marie Therese Sebrechts, USCIS regional media manager, said from Oct. 7, 2011 through Dec. 4, 2012, the California Service Center had data entered 6,041 I-129CW petitions. The petitions were filed by approximately 1,860 different employers on Saipan, Tinian and Rota. A total of 12,302 CW-1 workers are sponsored on these petitions.

Sebrechts said a total of 4,964 petitions were approved, consisting of 9,112 beneficiaries.

This means that 3,190 individuals have yet to be granted CW-1. This number includes those that were subject of a request for evidence from USCIS.

Sebrechts also said 454 petitions were denied, consisting of 660 beneficiaries.

The numbers, however, are not static as USCIS continues to receive new petitions. In February, for example, USCIS received some 5,000 petitions, and the number has since grown to over 5,000 petitions.

In fiscal 2012, the cap on the number of CW-1 work-

ers was 22,416 but the U.S. Department of Homeland Security received only 12,247 filings at the time of the DHS announcement, or 11,927, taking into account 320 denials. DHS rounded this to the nearest thousand, which is 12,000. DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano said the department added an additional 25 percent to the 12,000 "to accommodate possible economic growth that might lead to a need for additional CW workers, for a total of 15,000." Tourism arrivals to the CNMI have improved and the growth is expected to continue next year.

More information is available at www.uscis.gov/cnmi or www.uscis.gov/cw.



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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
DPW/FHWA-13-RFP-003

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES
FOR THE CROSS ISLAND ROAD IMPROVEMENTS, PHASE III, SAIPAN, CM-NH-0031(016)

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified Architectural/Engineering companies for the **Construction Management Services for the Cross Island Road Improvements, Phase III, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)**.

Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with **\$70-30.3-305** of the Procurement Regulations. This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations dated May 24, 2001, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is **not available** because its use is prohibited by the Federal Law granting the funding for this project.

Any corporation or partnership "firm" must have or obtained a valid Certificate of Authorization (**COA**) from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Board of Professional Licensing (CNMI BOPL). Individuals and/or sole proprietors are required to possess a valid professional license issued by the CNMI BOPL.

The Scope of Work will be available on or after **December 7, 2012** at the Department of Public Works, 2nd Floor, Gualo Rai Commercial Building Highway Office Saipan.

A **mandatory** Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works, Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Gualo Rai Commercial Building on **December 27, 2012**. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 234-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time **January 14, 2013**.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored bases on the following criteria:

1. Company Background and Qualifications (5 pages maximum each company) – **25%**
2. Qualifications of Team or assigned personnel and organizational structure (5 pages combined maximum) – **30%**
3. Past Experience of team and/or assigned personnel on projects successfully completed of similar size and scope (10 pages combined maximum) – **25%**
4. Current Workload of Firm (5 pages maximum) – **20%**

Proposals must be sealed and marked **"DPW/FHWA-13-RFP-003"**. For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **January 17, 2013**. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a **Notice of Intent to Propose**. Notices of Intent to submit proposals must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **January 17, 2013** and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **January 17, 2013** and must be received no later than **January 29, 2013**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

Discussions shall be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required. A contract shall be negotiated with the highest qualified Architect-Engineer firm at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price can not be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

The successful A-E firm will be subjected to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **\$70-30.3-245**.


This project is funded in whole by a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Contract award is contingent upon funding approval by the FHWA. All offerors shall be subjected to the provisions of the Federal Acquisition Regulations Part 52, Subpart 209-5, Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Proposed Debarment, and Other Responsibility Matters, March 1996.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded a contract for this project, including excise tax.

The Government reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and to waive any imperfections in any Proposal in the best interest of the Government. All Proposals shall become property of the Government.

/s/ **VICENTE B. CASTRO**
Acting Secretary of Public Works

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director of Procurement & Supply



CTSI Logistics is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

Storage and Distribution Supervisor
Associate's Degree with at least 3 years of distribution and warehousing supervisory experience. Knowledge of household goods handling and airfreight and oceanfreight operations is required. Proficiency in Warehouse management system software is required. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation, IICL (Container and Chassis) and Vehicle Safety Guidelines.

Shipping Supervisor
Associate's Degree and at least 3 years of shipping, receiving and warehousing supervisory experience is required. Proficiency in shipping operations, shipping documentation & cargo management system software is required. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation, 49 CFR & IMDG Code is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation, IICL (Container and Chassis) and Vehicle Safety Guidelines. Knowledge of bill of ladings, scheduling and planning inbound and outbound shipments is a must.

Transportation Supervisor
Associate's Degree and at least 3 years of logistics and trucking operations supervisory experience is required. Must be knowledgeable in transportation and safety regulations and proficient in various logistic software. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation, Emergency Response, IICL (Container and Chassis), Petroleum Standard Operating Procedure and Vehicle Safety Guidelines.

Freight Forwarding Supervisor
Associate's Degree with at least 3 years experience in freight forwarding operations and 1-year experience in transportation security and communication related activities. Knowledge of TSA security regulations and proficiency in TSA Known Shipper Management System are a must. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation and IATA related trainings. Proficiency in airfreight documentation, freight forwarding software, FEDEX systems and operations are a must. Must be familiar with airline operations and regulations.

Shipping and Receiving Clerk (6)
Associate's Degree and at least 2 years work related experience. Must be proficient in MS Office programs as well as other planning and logistics software. Knowledge of supply chain, shipping operations and procedures, document preparation and recordkeeping is required. Should possess good interpersonal and verbal communication skills.

Truck Mechanic
Vocational or High School Graduate. Must be able to diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul trucks, or maintain and repair any type of engines. Minimum of two (2) year work experience is required on these areas: lubrication, repairs and servicing, use of machine tools, welding and flame cutting, engine elements, gears, brakes, transmission, exhausts, etc. Proficiency in critical devices for fuel tank trucks is a must.

Sales Officer
Associate's Degree in Sales or Marketing and at least 3 years work related experience are required as well as an extensive knowledge and experience in supply chain and freight brokerage. Must have his/her own reliable transportation. Can work flexible hours. Must be able to meet monthly sales targets and have extensive contacts in various industries. Proficiency in freight forwarding, shipping and household goods operations are a must. Must be familiar with freight forwarding software.

Cargo and Freight Agent (5)
Associate's Degree with a minimum of 2 years experience in a logistics, freight brokerage or warehouse services business. Must know how to operate a forklift with certification. Must be able to do strenuous work with some lifting and carrying of small items on the job. Licensed to drive 4x6 wheel closed vans and must have obtained training or certification in handling hazardous materials, Occupational Safety, Hazardous Waste Operation and IAC CCSF authorized screener. Must be proficient in MS Office and Oracle-based programs and available to work on evenings and weekend hours.

Specialized Truck Driver (6)
High School graduate with at least 2 years experience operating trucks or vans with a capacity of at least 10,001 pounds gross vehicle weight (GVW) or 10 to 16-wheeled vehicles. Must have a valid commercial driver's license (CDL). Must have at least 3 years experience in hauling petroleum products with the corresponding SMITHS & STOPS training certification, carrying hazardous materials or oversized loads plus certificates or training in handling hazardous materials and cargoes is a must. Must be able to follow strict safety and operations procedures.

Heavy Equipment Truck Driver (3)
High School graduate with at least 2 years experience operating trucks or vans with a capacity of at least 10,001 pounds gross vehicle weight (GVW) or 10 to 16-wheeled vehicles. Must have a valid commercial driver's license (CDL). Experience in carrying hazardous materials or oversized loads plus certificates or training in handling hazardous materials and cargoes is a must. Must be able to follow strict safety and operations procedures.

Automotive Body Repairer
Formal Auto Body Training in a Vocational School is required as well as a minimum of one-year experience in repairing and refinishing automotive vehicle bodies' vehicle frames. Proficiency in automotive body painting is required.

Janitor
Dependable attendance, hard working and follows directions well. Must be available to work early mornings, late nights and weekends.

A pre-employment drug testing will be required. Salaries will be commensurate with qualification and experience. For applications to be considered, they should be sent to hrd@ctsispn.com not later than December 21, 2012.

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer. Women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.


‘Open meeting with SDLLC on PPA’

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Should they agree to meet with Saipan Development LLC on the sole-source \$190.8-million diesel power purchase agreement, lawmakers said the meeting should take place at the Legislature on Capitol Hill where the discussions could be aired on television and open to the public. This, even as Rep. Janet Maratita's (IR-Saipan) counsel, Ray Quichocho, provided the court on Friday afternoon a copy of a text message from Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota) as evidence in the Dec. 28 show cause hearing. Fitial and SDLLC were ordered to show cause why they should not be held in contempt for failing to obey preliminary injunction orders on the power deal. Ayuyu himself said if there's going to be another meeting, he would like it to be in the Senate or House chamber.

Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) and Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), who also met with SDLLC adviser Kenneth Mahmood three weeks ago, echoed Ayuyu's statement. The three senators said it was SDLLC's Mahmood that invited them to a meeting a few weeks ago. Fitial was also in that meeting. On Friday, Quichocho filed the text message exhibit. The text message was forwarded to Quichocho's mobile phone from Ayuyu's mobile phone on Dec. 6. The message was believed to have originated from Fitial's mobile phone. The text message reads, "Good afternoon Senator Ayuyu. Thank you so much for your time this morning. I hope that the informal meeting this morning helped clarify the major issues concerning the Power Purchase Agreement with the Saipan Development Power

Plant company. The company's official representative [Jason Osborne] will arrive Saipan next week. I wish to invite you and your colleagues to meet with him after his arrival next week to further discuss the new power plant issue at your convenience. Thank you. Governor." Maratita, Rep. Ray Yumul (IR-Saipan), and the full Senate filed a taxpayers' lawsuit against the governor, SDLLC, and others over the \$190.8 million PPA. The court issued preliminary injunctions. When Maratita found out last week that Ayuyu and two other senators met with SDLLC, she filed a motion for order to show cause. Maratita also filed a complaint against Ayuyu for allegedly making death threats against her though a phone call to her lawyer Quichocho. Ayuyu said he did not threaten to kill Maratita. The camps, however, are trying to mend their fences as of last week.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW/FHWA-13-IFB-001

ROUTE 31, CROSS ISLAND ROAD IMPROVEMENTS, PHASE II-B FEDERAL AID PROJECT NUMBER CM-NH-0031 (015)
RE-BID PACKAGE

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the **CROSS ISLAND ROAD IMPROVEMENTS, Phase II-B**, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package consisting of Plans, Specifications and Bid Documents will be available on or after **December 4, 2012** at Pacific Quick Print & Post, located in Middle Road, Garapan, Saipan. A non-refundable payment to Pacific Quick Print & Post, is required to defray the cost of printing the package.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 is **not available** because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

A **mandatory** Pre-bid Conference is scheduled for **December 21, 2012 9:00 a.m.** Chamorro Standard Time (ChST), at the Department of Public Works, Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Gualo Rai Commercial Building, Saipan. After the pre-bid there will be a site visit for Route 31, Phase II-B. DPW encourages prospective bidders to see the existing condition and the complexity of the proposed project. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **January 9, 2013** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that the full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 1353 Mednilla Avenue, Capitol Hill, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who have obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgement of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each of the addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at 234-9828/38 no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW/FHWA-13-IFB-001"**. For bidder within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. Chamorro Standard Time (ChST), **January 14, 2013**. Bidders located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. Chamorro Standard Time (ChST), **January 14, 2013**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **January 14, 2013**, and must be received no later than **January 24, 2013**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at **10:30 a.m.** Chamorro Standard Time (ChST), on **January 29, 2013**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:30 a.m.** Chamorro Standard Time (ChST), on **January 17, 2013**.

A bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". For Bid Bonds, surety companies must hold a Certificate of Authority from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner (CNMI Department of Commerce), as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the CNMI Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with NMIAC \$70-30.3-301 of the Procurement Regulations. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- a) A Current License from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- b) Under penalty of perjury, a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

The contractor submitting an unacceptable payment of performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

- 1) Cash
- 2) US Gov't Securities
- 3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- 4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- 5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Compliance with Local and Federal Laws and Other Certifications:

1. Bids shall include a certification from the contractor's principal certifying that the contractor is in compliance of all applicable Local and Federal Laws and that all work performed in accordance with said bid shall be in compliance with Local and Federal Laws.
2. Sub-contractors must also comply with item 1 of this section.
3. Bids shall also include a certification from the contractor's principal certifying that the contractor shall comply with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Buy American Provision (ARRA Title XVI, Section 1605) for all materials purchased utilizing ARRA funds.


Performance time for completion of this project is three hundred days (300) working days upon issuance of an official written Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for the delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed according to table 108-1 of the Standard Specifications for Construction of Roads and Bridges on Federal Highway Projects, FP-96.

This project is funded in part by a grant from the American Recovery Act of 2009 (ARRA) through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and the FHWA Federal aid Territorial Transportation Improvement Program (TTIP). Contract award is contingent upon funding approval by FHWA.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to bids and waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ **ANTHONY A. CAMACHO**
Acting Secretary of Public Works

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director of Procurement & Supply



'Suspension of refund checks a delaying tactic'

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Mayor Donald Flores and municipality employees have questioned the integrity of court-appointed Fund trustee *ad litem* Joseph Razzano for suspending the disbursement of refund checks to members due to the delinquent contributions of the central government and public schools.

In a letter to Razzano, which was also filed with the federal court, Saipan municipal employees described the *ad litem*'s reasoning as enough cause for them to call his integrity into question.

Razzano issued two letters on Nov. 13 and Nov. 27 explaining to Fund members that he decided to suspend the disbursement of refund checks due to the significant arrears of the school system and the government in terms of employee and employer contributions.

"Your letters are completely snapped, if not, disconnected [to] your assertion that the central government was and is at fault for your decision

to suspend disbursements of employee contributions. Both your letters are suspect of an attempted misrepresentation to mislead and purposefully delay reimbursements," the employees told the *ad litem*, adding that they do not appreciate Razzano's "almost apparent nonsensical strategy" to prolong withholding property that members lawfully own.

The Fund earlier disclosed that PSS owes the pension agency \$1.4 million in employee contributions for fiscal year 2012.

Municipal employees claim that this amount is not that large to affect the disbursement of refund checks, which only requires releasing 25 percent of a member's contributions in the first 30 days.

The employees cited a Fund report in March this year which states that employee contributions in fiscal year 2011 was at \$8.080 million. Figures for 2012 are not yet available.

"Assuming revenue in FY 2012 from employee contributions remains constant from the preceding fiscal year, the total amount that you claimed PSS

did not transfer to the NMIRF should come to approximately 17 percent. We must argue that 17 percent is not even near significant," said the employees.

Assuming there are 250 PSS employees that the Fund earlier said are affecting the disburse-

ments, the this only represents 14 percent of the total applications filed with the Fund, which is 1,765, they said.

"Your 'equal treatment' makes PSS the mother of anchor to stall, if not drag to the depth all innocent and compli-

ant employees and their employers who had paid their employee' contributions to the Fund, all disbursements," said the employees.

Last week, PSS paid \$1.1 million in employee contributions of its employees for FY 2012. However, suspension of the disbursement is still in effect pending the guidance of the court.

According to the municipal employees, "while suspending disbursement of employee contributions is another way of delaying a process that has been authorized by law, the *ad litem* even took a step further to encourage the court to tolerate and condone the decision and action in violation of Public Law 17-82 [refund law]."

MHS mid-quarter reports out

Marianas High School would like to invite all parents and guardians to our 2nd Quarter Mid-Progress Report on Thursday, Dec. 13, 2012, from 4pm to 6pm. All teachers will be distributing the reports at the MHS Gym. Students will be released at 1pm on this day to allow the school time to prepare for the event. Should you have any questions, call the Main Office at 237-3206/5/3. (PR)



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Offer good while supplies last. See store for rules.

Next deadline for EQIP signup on Dec. 21

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Natural Resources Conservation Service Saipan Field Office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture is reminding farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural producers in the CNMI to avail of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program as the deadline for the signup period ends on Dec. 21.

District conservationist Kendal Hicks revealed that 27 applications were submitted during the first deadline, and another dozen or so are expected to be received by the second deadline next week.

Hicks encouraged agricultural producers in the Northern Marianas to apply as soon as possible given that contracts are reviewed and approved under EQIP using a competitive ranking process.

By applying early, applicants will have a better opportunity to achieve eligibility and timely, thorough planning, Hicks said that eligibility issues need to be addressed for applications to be processed and submitted for approval for funding.

EQIP, Hicks said, is a "farmer-friendly" program that provides cost share reimbursements based upon established rates for practices that are commonly needed on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

The reimbursements are similar to a grant since they do not have to be repaid and are provided as assistance to help cooperators implement recommended conservation practices.

Cost-shared practices include piggeries, water storage tanks, compost bins, waste management systems, irrigation systems, mulching, vegetative erosion control barriers, multi-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mulching is one of the cost-shared practices under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program.

story cropping, brush management, invasive weed treatments, pasture renovation planting, troughs and pipelines.

"Because the cost share is divided among several practice items in the contracts, farmers frequently can quickly rollover

recently deposited cost share to underwrite the next scheduled practices," Hicks told *Saipan Tribune*. "This process allows farmers and ranchers to minimize the out-of-pocket, up-front costs associated with the program."

He noted that EQIP applicants must be able to show control of the land for the contract length, which is typically three to five years but can be longer as needs dictate. He added that contracts also require continued operation and management once the contract period ends.

EQIP participants, he said, will be provided with a detailed conservation plan of operations that includes job sheets, engineering designs, and environmental conservation information. They would also have to follow NRCS guidance during the implementation of cost-shared contract items.

Hicks said reimbursements can only be processed once the completed practice items are inspected and measured to meet or exceed NRCS standards and specification, thereby ensuring maximum environmental benefits, largest benefit to the client's agriculture land and operation, and the best use of taxpayer funds.

He said EQIP is available to all applicants without regard to ethnicity, race, religion or any other protected status, and everyone is strongly encouraged to seek both planning and EQIP assistance from local NRCS staff of conservation professionals.

"This is one Farm Bill program that has been resoundingly embraced by local agriculture producers in the CNMI. I strongly encourage all agriculture producers to contact the NRCS Saipan field

For more information, visit the NRCS Saipan Field Office at the DY Building in South Garapan along Beach Road. They are open Monday to Friday from 8am to 4:30pm. You may also call 233-3415 or visit www.pia.nrcs.usda.gov and click on the Programs Tab.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

December 11, 1998

Officials seek ways to finance deficit

In view of swelling budgetary shortfall that is threatening to thrust the Northern Marianas into its worst financial woes, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday said he will convene his financial advisers to draw up ways to wipe out the deficit. However, thinning revenue collections which can hardly meet the funding needs for government operations, make it unlikely for the commonwealth to meet the constitutional requirement to retire the deficit next year. "We have to reserve money to retire our deficit," the governor said in an interview, "This means we will have to continue with our austerity measure and find other revenues to retire this without interrupting essential services provided to the public."

NMC Tinian prepares to transfer

The Northern Marianas College on Tinian will move into a new campus by summer of 1999. The move will not cost anything to the cash-trapped college, but it will offer students a conducive atmosphere for studies. Public Law 10-38 identified \$100,000 for the design and construction of NMC on Tinian. Further lobbying brought the Tinian local officials to appropriate \$250,000 to supplement the original budget. Two hectares of public land was also allocated for NMC situated next to the Tinian High School.

December 11, 2000

Bank liabilities balloon 9%

Bank liabilities soared nearly nine percent in the third quarter of the calendar year to \$603.7 million from last year of the same period's \$555.6 million, according to a government document which compiles reports submitted by banking institutions in the Commonwealth. Assets paled in comparison to liabilities, reaching only \$255.7 million in the July-September 2000 period which indicated slowdown in overall revenue-generating activities by banks as a result of the shrinking local market for loans. The persistent increase in the volume of deposits and the declining number of loan transactions contributed to the deficiency between liabilities and assets which shrunk to 42.4 percent from last year's 54 percent.

Feds test land crabs for PCB contamination

One of Saipan's most popular delicacies will be subjected to a thorough testing by environmental experts who arrived over the weekend from the mainland United States as part of efforts to protect public health against polychlorinated biphenyl. Experts from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will be collecting land crabs from four areas in Tanapag village to determine whether or not these local delicacies are contaminated with PCB. This is the second time EPA is conducting a tests on land crabs in the Tanapag, the first being done in May 2000 were five of the eight crabs collected and examined from an area near the village's Cemetery-2 showed some PCB contamination.

December 11, 2002

Disease outbreak feared

With Rota still in total blackout, authorities fear that an outbreak of diseases may result from drinking water that may be contaminated by bacteria and other microorganisms. This comes amid efforts by the CNMI government to have President Bush declare not just Rota but the entire Commonwealth as a major disaster area, after receiving reports that typhoon Pongsona also wreaked havoc on Anatahan in the Northern Islands. "We also need to include Anatahan so we're not seeking for individual islands, but possibly for the entire CNMI to be declared [a major disaster area]," the Governor said. Babauta and representatives of different government agencies flew yesterday to Rota, a day after the island was left crippled by supertyphoon Pongsona, to personally assess the damage wrought by the typhoon.

Classes on Rota may resume in January

While classes on Saipan and Tinian are now back to normal, classes on Rota, particularly for junior, high school, and Head-Start, could possibly resume second week of January 2003. Education commissioner Rita H. Inos said reports reaching the PSS indicated major damage to school facilities on the island. "We've communicated with our school principals on Rota, and we've learned that it's a big mess. Our facilities have major damage. We couldn't send our students back there yet," said Inos yesterday. At the same time, PSS had earlier scheduled Rota schools to close for a two-week Christmas vacation on Dec. 23-Jan. 6, 2003, so the closure also coincides with the Christmas vacation, Inos said.

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GC- \$50.00 from Cosmos	15982	Liwayway Garcia
GC- Sunday Brunch for 2 @ World Cafe	1956	Ernesto M.
GC- Sunday Brunch for 2 @ World Cafe	12588	Ricardo Alejandro
GC- Sunday Brunch for 2 @ ISLA Cafe	14060	Florentino Corpuz
GC- Lunch Buffet for 2 @ World Cafe	14320	Manolito Santiago
GC- Lunch Buffet for 2 @ ISLA Cafe	10548	Rowena Tolosa
GC- fr. D&Q - \$20.00	13445	Salina Amar
GC- fr. D&Q - \$20.00	11666	Marilou Paet
GC- Dinner Buffet for 1 @ ISLA Cafe	10774	D. Moore

Winners must present their coupons to the Kanoa Resort front desk to receive prize.

Japanese tourist joins PDM Promoters' cleanup



By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Japanese tourist who regularly visits Saipan joined volunteers of PDM Promoters, Inc. for their monthly cleanup in Garapan last Dec. 8.

Retired businessman Kensuke Ogasawara was the second tourist to help the volunteer group pick up trash along Coral Tree Avenue to the Garapan Fire Station on to Beach Road up to Joeten Hafa Adai Shopping Center, said Sonia Siwa of PDM Promoters, Inc.

The group was composed

of 26 members of the Saipan Awaodori and eight Kinpachi staff and collected a total of 720 lbs during their December cleanup.

Siwa said yesterday that Ogasawara, whose company operates several restaurants in Japan, is familiar with the Saipan Awaodori team, having watched them a number of times during his visits to Saipan.

An avid golfer, Ogasawara visits Saipan at least three times a year, according to Siwa.

She said they informed 73-year-old Ogasawara about the Saturday cleanup when he dined at Kinpachi restaurant in Garapan, which is close to the hotel where he stays.

"He immediately expressed interest to join the cleanup, showing up last Saturday to help pick up trash under the sun for two hours," Siwa told *Saipan Tribune*.

Ogasawara's interest in the activity, Siwa said, shows the value of the group's community service.

"The Awaodori members were really happy to meet Mr. Ogasawara," she added.

Siwa expressed hope that with a tourist's interest in the cleanup, residents and business establishments would be encouraged to join efforts in maintaining the cleanliness of the island in support of its No. 1 industry.



Over 30 volunteers of PDM Promoters, Inc. pose for a group photo before the start of their monthly cleanup in Garapan last Saturday. The group collected a total of 720 lbs of trash. Other photo shows Kensuke Ogasawara, right, a retired Japanese businessman visiting the island, joining Saipan Awaodori member Darvince Manalo in picking up trash during PDM Promoters, Inc.'s monthly cleanup in Garapan on Dec. 8.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

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<p>KURO FILM FOR IMAGESETTER 63.5cm x 60m</p> <p>\$455.00</p>	<p>NEWSPRINT PAPER 34-1/8" x 24-1/8" 1 REAM (480 SHEETS)</p> <p>\$21.50</p>	<p>NEWSPRINT PAPER 32" x 24" 1 REAM (480 SHEETS)</p> <p>\$21.50</p>

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

An irrational vote against disability treaty

The following editorial appeared in the Kansas City Star on Dec. 6:

Opposition from Republican senators this week foiled an opportunity for the United States to lead the world in advocating for people with disabilities.

The Senate needed 66 votes to ratify a U.N. treaty that calls upon countries to ensure disabled citizens receive the same rights and freedoms as their able-bodied peers. Despite a visit in the Senate chamber from an ailing former Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, it received only 61 votes.

The treaty, already ratified by 126 countries, calls on nations to live up to the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

As GOP Kansas Sen. Jerry Moran said in May, "Each person has the inherent right to life and should have the opportunity to pursue happiness, participate in society, and be treated equally before the law."

But Moran, along with GOP Kansas Sen. Pat Roberts, voted in opposition to the treaty Wednesday, as did Missouri Republican Sen. Roy Blunt.

At some point, Moran decided that "foreign officials should not be put in a position to interfere with U.S. policymaking," as he said in a statement after the vote. Not that the treaty would do any such thing.

A spokeswoman for Roberts called the vote "a heartbreaking deal" because of Dole's role, but said Roberts felt he had to listen to the many citizens who opposed the treaty.

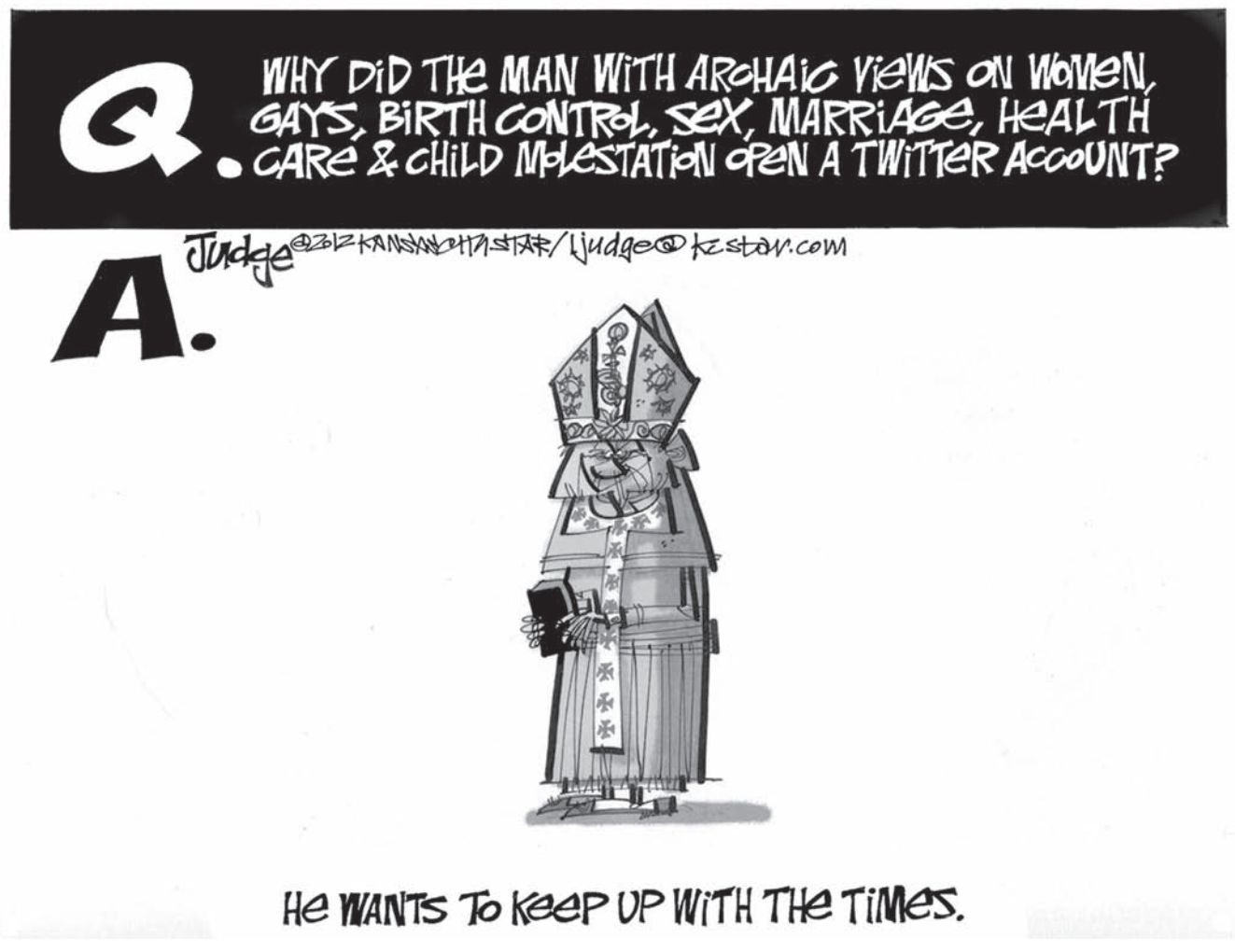
Listening is essential, but senators must distinguish rational arguments from hysteria.

Opposition to the treaty was drummed up by far-right denizens like Rick Santorum and Glenn Beck, who claimed it would empower governments to tell parents how to care for disabled children. Other groups said it was really a call for more abortions.

None of that is true. Ratification would simply affirm the dignity and fair treatment of disabled people, including veterans. It would give the United States a chance to show its exceptionalism.

All of that should have appealed to Republicans. But as has been made painfully obvious, this is not Bob Dole's Senate anymore.

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Infamy

"A day that will live in infamy," is the oft-quoted FDR pronouncement after he denounced the Japanese imperial forces' bombing of Pearl Harbor in a joint session of Congress. I am a resident of Hawaii, so those words and the pictures that often go with it are deeply embedded in my mental coconut!

Educational theory favors the proposition that the human mind holds images. Those images are a product of experience, emotion, cognition, and action. They gel through time and transmitted through culture. Images then turn as trigger mechanism on behavior. Education's task clarifies the operating images that determine behavior.

Images can change. When images change, behavior changes. Social activism is often about change of images. Entrenched status quo finds alternative images threatening. Those outside established parameters often find alternative images refreshing, making the promotion of them revolutionary.

We found in our youth JFK's daring images on the exploration of outer space very alluring, and we tolerated the young President's bellicose pronouncements against Cold War opponents. The U.S. at the time saw itself as shamed by the Sputnik program. Its finger was also caught in the cookie jar when one of our U2 secret spy craft was downed. The idealistic President exhibited all the imperial braggadocio of the Boston Brahmin sense of superiority but after Dallas '63, JFK was enshrined into the pantheon of our national heroes. The image prevailed over facts.

FDR shares the same fate in a sector of the American electorate. His New Deal program saved the American economy from the ignominy of the market crash of '29 by stimulating the economy with public works' jobs. We now know that FDR's administration did not have clean hands in egging Japan into war when it cut off Japan's oil supply, making imperial Japan, already ravaging the resources of Manchuria, drool for the southern resources of minerals and oil in Indochina and Southeast Asia. Treachery was not a one-way street.

World War II was good for the American economy, emerging as a superpower after the Axis and the Allies exhausted their resources in annihilating each other. The U.S. was the manufacturing base for war materiel, made possible by accessible and inexpensive fossil fuel for energy. That is, until OPEC decided to flex its muscles. Accommodations were made where we Americans handled the finances. If we did not control the spigots on crude, we could at least dominate its distribution, manage its refinement, and fix the price on the global market.

We did that until the Congo and Nigeria, Venezuela, Iraq, and Iran, then Libya, Egypt, and Syria, started dancing to a different beat. We only have to point to any military conflict after WWII to realize that oil is the determining factor in bringing combatants into the conflict. The conflict over the Diaoyu islands is not a quarrel on

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvargarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.



sovereignty, in the first instance. It is the promise of oil that has the U.S. Marines' M-16s cocked on the ready to protect Nippon's and our corporate interest.

In Shenyang, the image of Sept. 18, 1931 (China's declared national day of humiliation when the Japanese occupied Manchuria, its 9/11) is enshrined in an annual day of remembrance. Not surprisingly, though ironically, Pearl Harbor receded in American memory as U.S. military policy now backs Japan's continuing administration of the Diaoyu islands without actually acknowledging sovereign ownership.

We talk about China in our Oral English class. We include the United States in our discourses, particularly the recently held U.S. presidential election and CPC's National Congress. One of the frequently asked questions is the role of race in the U.S.

I borrow John Lennon's *Imagine* (his song is in our class songbook) and ask the class to imagine the new CPC General Secretary and soon to be President Xi Jinping's lineage. If his mother was Han and father was from Dong Bei (Manchuria) whose ancestors were from Japan (this is when I duck just in case a projectile comes slashing through the air), the reflexive response of unbelieving, "Oh, no," or the defensive, "No way," saves us from connecting the dots.

Nor will I need to explain MLK's *I Have a Dream* speech (also in class handout) a century after Lincoln's Emancipation Declaration. Hollywood came up with an imaginal assist in the newly released *Lincoln* movie. With superb Oscar-quality performances by Daniel Day Lewis and cast, it portrays the hoops Honest Abe had to go through to get the legislation passed. We can use more image-rectifying examples like this.

Dutiful heirs to Class-A war criminals in Japan (by Western classification) faithfully visit their tombs. And why should they not? We never condemn visits to graves in Britain and France, Portugal and Spain, Germany and the Netherlands, for all their atrocities against their colonial peons! It took Vietnam to show that our military behavior, including our continuing presence in the Philippines, differs not in kind or degree, but on operating image.

We've manipulated images long enough. Infamy is in the eye of the beholder. Let Pearl Harbor, and other "infamy" designated places, alone. May they rest in peace.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

In trying to prevent terrorist attacks, US risks eroding civil liberties

When it comes to homeland security, we've been seduced for more than a decade by a "pre-emptive" mandate that directs us to catch terrorists before they strike next. Where law enforcement once investigated crimes to determine who was responsible and how they could be prosecuted, it now also gathers intelligence to prevent potential future crimes.

This mandate, however, has been characterized by a distinct absence of actual terrorist plots. Instead, we've seen an increasingly familiar pattern—the most recent case in the last few weeks involved four young Southern Californians who were arrested in a case built largely by a well-paid informant. The young men allegedly were on their way to join al-Qaida. One of them was already abroad. The others had booked flights through Mexico to Afghanistan and, according to the government, played proxy holy war at a paintball course and exchanged macho emails.

Would they have become truly dangerous to America? Maybe. But in the past, these stings have mostly put behind bars a lot of impressionable young men—rather iffy bad guys—who were often urged toward jihad by the intelligence operation targeting them.

Along the way, constitutional protections such as the presumption of innocence and the right to a fair trial have been put at risk. Everyone is a potential suspect, and everyone is under surveillance.

As President Obama embarks on his second term, among the key questions he faces is how he will continue to wage the war on terror. Many of these questions have been focused overseas—on the withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan, on drone warfare and what

to do with the U.S. detention center at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba.

But domestically we're not debating the overreach of our counter-terrorism efforts, which involve primarily the FBI but also state and local law enforcement. Among the kinds of things deemed suspect by the L.A. Police Department, for example, are people who take photos "with no apparent aesthetic value" or who carry on "long conversations on pay or cellular phones."

The unprecedented expansion of intelligence gathering comes with a host of enhanced surveillance and investigative tools that erode civil liberties but offers little evidence that we are safer from another terrorist attack. Many of these measures were first introduced under President George W. Bush through legislation such as the Patriot Act. Under Obama, they appear increasingly entrenched in our national security landscape.

These amplified investigative powers were originally part of an emergency response to the 9/11 attacks. The FBI, as the agency responsible for counter-terrorism in the U.S., shouldered the brunt of recriminations over missed cues that might have forestalled the attacks, and its director, Robert S. Mueller III, found himself battling calls for the FBI to be broken up into two agencies: one tasked with traditional law enforcement and the other focused on intelligence gathering. To stave off the loss of half his institutional footprint, Mueller assured Congress that the bureau could be a model of law enforcement and intelligence gathering.

The implications of this now-institutionalized model have not troubled most Americans, probably because "intelligence-led policing" has focused on a beleaguered and relatively powerless mi-

By **PETRA BARTOSIEWICZ**

Los Angeles Times

Petra Bartosiewicz's book, The Best Terrorists We Could Find, is due to be published next year. She wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.



nority, Muslim Americans. But it is already being deployed against ever-expanding categories of "suspect" citizens.

Under Obama we have seen the offices of longtime antiwar protesters in Chicago and Minneapolis raided on suspicion of providing "material support" to Palestinian and Colombian terrorist groups; in New Jersey, animal rights activists were convicted under a new law that makes any "interference" with an animal-related company a potential crime of terrorism; and in Oregon and Washington, environmental activists were similarly convicted as terrorists for arsons they had committed to protest public lands policies and wilderness development.

A chief repository of domestic intelligence data are the nation's more than 70 "fusion centers." Staffed by local, state and federal officials but largely funded by the Department of Homeland Security, these centers have been described by Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano as among the "centerpieces of our counter-terrorism strategy." But a Senate report published in October found that the intelligence produced by these centers was "often shoddy, rarely timely" and "more often than not unrelated to terrorism." The investigation identified "no reporting which uncovered a terrorist threat, nor could it identify a contribution such fusion center reporting made to disrupt an active terrorist plot."

The template of the government's major "homegrown" plots, where informants largely invent the plot, agree to supply the weapons and encourage the inflammatory rhetoric that elevates the crime to the level of terrorism, continue to be cited under the Obama administration as evidence that we are winning the war on terror. But in the few instances where an actual attack was attempted—from the 2001 "shoe bomber," Richard Reid, to the 2010 Times Square bomber, Faisal Shahzad—the plots have apparently surprised the law enforcement intelligence apparatus, and the attackers have been caught because of their own ineptness and the prompt actions of civilians.

That the pre-emptive paradigm is largely intact suggests we are still haunted by the failures of 9/11. It may be politically expedient for the president to err on the side of national security against civil liberties for fear of being seen as soft on terrorism, but he should consider his legacy. Bush is the president who launched the war on terror. Will Obama go down in history as the one who made it permanent?

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Forum on parole extension a success!

On behalf of the US Pinoys for Good Governance (USP4GG), I would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude and sincere appreciation to those who had helped, supported, assisted, and collaborated for the success of the Forum on Parole Extension that was held at the American Memorial Park Auditorium, Garapan, Saipan, on Dec. 8, 2012.

We would like to thank the following: U.S. Department of Homeland Security/USCIS' David G. Gulick, USCIS District Director of Hawaii, Guam and CNMI; Stephen P. Green, USCIS Field Director for Guam and CNMI; Ranger Nancy Kelchner of the American Memorial Park; Loida Nicolas Lewis, national chair of USP4GG; Rodel Rodis, USP4GG national president; Ted Laguatan, USP4GG legal counsel/spokesperson; Ronald Lamkin, Mar Masilungan, Marianas Variety, Zaldy Dandan, Andrew de Guzman, Jimmy Blanca, 100.3 KAWW (Saipan), Gerry Malit, *Saipan Tribune*, Jay-vee Vallejera, Heidi Eugenio, Bob Coldeen/Mhegan/KSPN2 News, and Erlinda Ruga.

Maraming salamat po and thank you very much!

Dr. Celia B. Lamkin

Chairwoman, U.S. Pinoys for Good Governance (Marianas Chapter)

Better spies, not more

The Defense Intelligence Agency is planning to dramatically expand the ranks of its covert "collectors"—a.k.a. case officers or, more popularly, spies. It has 500 or so and hopes to double that number.

There is nothing inherently wrong with this plan, which is being pushed by the DIA's new director, Army Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn. It is unlikely to lead to a militarization of U.S. foreign policy, as some fear—the military is already the dominant player in the intelligence community, with its control not only of the Defense Department's DIA but also the National Security Agency and other high-tech outfits.

The real question is, will a beefed-up DIA make up for the intelligence community's long-standing difficulties in acquiring high-quality human intelligence? On that score, unfortunately, there is real cause for doubt.

The problem is that the intelligence community already suffers from a propensity to put quantity over quality, the former being easier to order up than the latter. The CIA expanded dramatically after 9/11, but that has done nothing to prevent a series of embarrassing debacles, including Iraq's nonexistent weapons of mass destruction, the supposed halting of the Iranian nuclear program (claimed by a now-repudiated 2007 National Intelligence Estimate) and the September attack on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya. Even the CIA's basic tradecraft has been called into question by the inept "rendition" of a terrorist suspect from Italy in 2003 that resulted in the conviction, in absentia, of 22 CIA employees who left their fingerprints all over the operation.

Granted, there have been notable successes, like tracking down Osama bin Laden and other, still classified, victories. But the problem remains that after 9/11 the CIA hired a bunch of young analysts and case officers who were patriotic and enthusiastic but also inexperienced.

As former intelligence officers have complained to me, too few of the hires have the kind of detailed knowledge of foreign languages and cultures needed to really understand complex societies, and their career paths conspire against acquiring such knowledge. Despite efforts to send more of them abroad, most analysts still spend most of their time in Washington, far from the countries they are supposed to be analyzing. Most case officers, in the clandestine service, shuttle back and forth between different stations in different countries.

All of this makes it extremely difficult to acquire the kind of granular knowledge needed to understand complex foreign societies, especially tribal societies in the Middle East, where personal relationships are all important.

Foreign-born Americans—Arab Americans, Iranian Americans, Chinese Americans and Congolese Americans—are more likely to have such knowledge from the start. But they find it hard to get

By **MAX BOOT**

Los Angeles Times

Max Boot is a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations and the author of the forthcoming Invisible Armies: An Epic History of Guerrilla Warfare from Ancient Times to the Present. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.



and keep a security clearance because of the pervasive suspicions of the counterintelligence gumshoes. Thus the intelligence community tends to hire a lot of white-bread Americans who don't have a lot of deep overseas experience.

It doesn't help that most clandestine operatives work abroad under flimsy diplomatic cover. Operating out of U.S. embassies, pretending to be junior Foreign Service officers, hardly hides their espionage activities. But using "non-official cover" is much riskier and harder and therefore rarer.

Don't get me wrong—plenty of highly intelligent, highly motivated, highly knowledgeable individuals work hard within the intelligence community to protect our security. But even the brightest lights find it hard to shine in a stultifying bureaucracy that has grown worse over the last decade with the creation of a new layer of management, at the office of the director of national intelligence.

Those problems have been amply revealed in the memoirs of former CIA officers such as "Ishmael Jones" (a pseudonym), Charles Faddis and Melissa Boyle Mahle. Mahle's "Denial and Deception" bemoans "the rise of the committee, the anointing of bureaucracy, and the crowning of process," while Jones' "The Human Factor" laments "billions of taxpayer dollars wasted or stolen in espionage programs that produce nothing."






Rather than continuing to bloat the intelligence community, it is high time for some prudent trimming—cut out a lot of unnecessary bureaucrats and create space for a few stars to shine. The intelligence community needs to change its recruitment procedures to hire more of the kind of brilliant men and women recruited by the OSS during World War II and by the CIA itself during the early days of the Cold War—individuals such as Julia Child, Arthur Schlesinger Jr., Allen Dulles and many others who would not last long in today's overly rigid intelligence infrastructure. The emphasis should be on hiring more foreign-born operatives and mid-career professionals whose accomplishments allow them entree into high levels of society and a cover for spying.

Simply adding to the existing intelligence bureaucracy is not the answer; there are more than enough individuals already on the payroll. The problem is we have too few of the right people.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

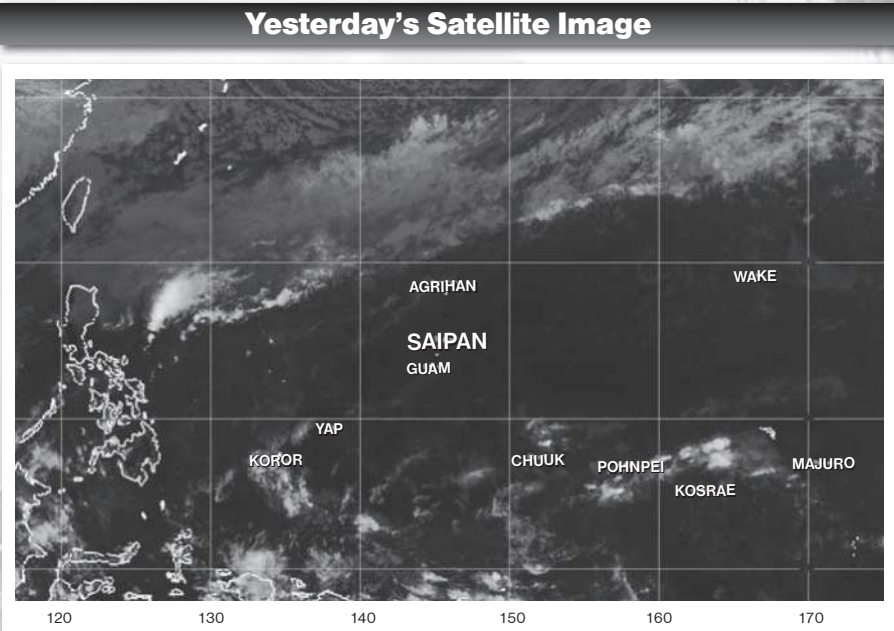
5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
Mostly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East wind 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast wind 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.
▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 77°	▲ 86° ▼ 77°	▲ 86° ▼ 79°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Sunny	▲ 88 ▼ 78
Palau	Mostly Sunny	▲ 86 ▼ 77
Yap	Showers	▲ 89 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 80
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 79
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 79
Majuro	Mostly Sunny	▲ 88 ▼ 81

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲ 68 ▼ 59
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲ 36 ▼ 21
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲ 69 ▼ 61
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 81 ▼ 71
London	Sunny	▲ 36 ▼ 24
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 72 ▼ 48
Manila	Mostly Sunny	▲ 89 ▼ 79
Melbourne	Sunny	▲ 78 ▼ 55
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲ 84 ▼ 73
New York	Showers	▲ 61 ▼ 42
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲ 48 ▼ 36
Paris	Sunny	▲ 37 ▼ 27
Pusan	Sunny	▲ 41 ▼ 27
Rome	Sunny	▲ 49 ▼ 32
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲ 50 ▼ 37
San Francisco	Sunny	▲ 66 ▼ 50
Seoul	Sunny	▲ 29 ▼ 15
Tokyo	Sunny	▲ 51 ▼ 33
Washington, DC	Showers	▲ 64 ▼ 44

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
6:22 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
11:29 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
4:57 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front stretches southwestward from northeast of Minami Tori Shima at 25N156E to 20N142E then continues as a shear line to beyond 130E at 16N. Extensive cloudiness and scattered showers are found north of the Marianas along and up to 450 miles northwest of this boundary. A surface trough extends southeastward from 8N134E to 2N150E then turns northeastward through a weak circulation centered south of Pohnpei near 5N158E to end at 8N167E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found near Koror within 80 miles of a line from 8N134E to 3N137E and near the equator south of a line from 1N132E to 2N141E farther east. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found just south of Pohnpei and just southwest of Kwajalein within 70 miles of a line from 3N154E to 8N166E to 5N171E. An old shear line runs southwestward from 12N180 to near Chuuk at 8N153E. Scattered showers are found along and up to 130 miles northwest of this feature.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:33 AM	5:48 PM	Today	3:55 AM	3:42 PM
Wednesday	6:33 AM	5:48 PM	Wednesday	4:59 AM	4:42 PM
Thursday	6:34 AM	5:48 PM	Thursday	6:04 AM	5:45 PM
Friday	6:35 AM	5:49 PM	Friday	7:08 AM	6:50 PM
Saturday	6:35 AM	5:49 PM	Saturday	8:08 AM	7:54 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ **CAMPUS BULLETIN**
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.

■ Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOV. 21, 2012									
DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS				
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)					GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN				
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7		UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7	
UA5062	4:40am	5:30am	1, 3, 5		UA5071	7:05am	7:55am	Daily	
UA5068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily		UA5073	9:50am	10:40am	Daily	
UA5074	11:10am	12:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7		UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7	
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily		UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily	
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily		UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily	
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily						
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)					NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN				
DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily		DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily	
DL297	4:25pm	7:20pm	Daily		DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily	
SAIPAN-PUSAN (BUS)					PUSAN (BUS)-SAIPAN				
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 6, 7		OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 5, 6	
OZ608	3:30am	6:40am	3		OZ607	9:35pm	2:25am+1	2	
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)					SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN				
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1		OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily	
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7		OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7	
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily		OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)					SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN				
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7		3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7	
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)					BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN				
MU7108	2:50am	5:55am	1, 3, 5		MU7107	6:30pm	1:50am+1	2, 4, 7	
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)					GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN				
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6		3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5	
SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)					VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN				
VLK1734	2:00am	8:15am	5 every other week		VLK1733	8:00pm	12:05am+1	4 every other week	
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN				
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1		OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN	
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7		DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT	
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM		UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM	
DL287/173	6:00am	10:20pm	Daily via NRT		UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM	
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM		UA702/605	12:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN	
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM		OZ702/605	12:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN		PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM		UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:55am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	
					UA184/5071	11:59pm	7:55am+1	2, 5 via GUM	
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)					HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN				
OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN		OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN	
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN		OZ724/605	1:50pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN	
UA5076/147	3:10pm	10:30pm	1, 5 via GUM		OZ724/605	1:50pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:20pm	Daily via ICN		UA180/5073	11:25pm	10:40am+1	1, 5 via GUM	
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air.					ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)				

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE									
Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily		
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily		
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily		
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily		
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily		
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily		
Rota-Saipan									
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	Tinian-Saipan					
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily		
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily		
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily		
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily		
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily		
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily		
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily		
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily		
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily		
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily		
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily		
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily		
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily		

Tan Holdings is giving away over \$6,000 in prizes and \$1,750 in CUC bills this Christmas!



Grand Night RAFFLE DRAW

GRAND PRIZE: \$4,000.00

- \$1,000 Joeten Shopping Spree
- Up to \$1,000 in CUC bills
- \$300 Mobil Gas
- \$300 Triple J Wholesale
- \$250 D&Q
- \$250 Cosmos
- \$100 Athlete's Foot
- \$100 Skechers
- \$200 Modern Stationery
- \$200 National Office Supply
- \$100 Shirley's Restaurant
- Overnight-night stay for 2 w/ breakfast at Fiesta (\$180 equivalent)
- Dinner for 2 at Fiesta (\$60 equivalent)
- \$60 IT&E

2ND PLACE: \$2,000.00

- \$500 Joeten Shopping Spree
- Up to \$500 in CUC bills
- \$150 Shell Gas
- \$150 Triple J Wholesale
- \$100 D&Q
- \$100 Cosmos
- \$100 Shirley's Restaurant
- Overnight-stay for 2 w/ breakfast at Kanoa (\$150 equivalent)
- Dinner for 2 at Kanoa (\$60 equivalent)
- \$60 Docomo
- \$50 Athlete's Foot
- \$50 Skechers
- \$30 Modern Stationery

3RD PLACE: \$1,000.00

- \$250 Triple J Wholesale
- Up to \$250 in CUC bills
- \$150 Shell Gas
- \$100 D&Q
- \$100 Cosmos
- Sunday Brunch for 2 at Fiesta (\$70 equivalent)
- \$30 Shirley's Restaurant
- \$25 Skechers
- \$25 Modern Stationery

4TH PLACE: \$450.00

- \$100 Triple J Wholesale
- \$75 D&Q
- \$75 Cosmos
- \$50 Mobil Gas
- Dinner for 2 at Fiesta (\$60 equivalent)
- \$35 Shirley's Restaurant
- \$30 IT&E
- \$25 Modern Stationery

5TH PLACE: \$350.00

- \$75 D&Q
- \$75 Cosmos
- Dinner for 2 at Kanoa (\$60 equivalent)
- \$50 Shell Gas
- \$35 Shirley's Restaurant
- \$30 Docomo
- \$25 Skechers

6TH PLACE: \$250.00

- Sunday Brunch for 2 at Fiesta (\$70 equivalent)
- \$50 D&Q
- \$50 Cosmos
- \$30 Mobil Gas
- \$25 Shirley's Restaurant
- \$25 Skechers

7TH PLACE: \$150.00

- Sunday Brunch for 2 at Kanoa (\$70 equivalent)
- \$30 Shell Gas
- \$20 D&Q
- \$20 Cosmos
- \$10 Shirley's Restaurant

8TH PLACE: \$100.00

- \$25 D&Q
- \$25 Cosmos
- Dinner for 1 at Fiesta (\$30 Equivalent)
- \$20 Shirley's Restaurant

9TH PLACE: \$100.00

- \$50 D&Q
- Dinner for 1 at Kanoa (\$30 Equivalent)
- \$20 Shirley's Restaurant

10TH PLACE: \$100.00

- \$50 Cosmos
- \$30 Shirley's Restaurant
- \$20 Modern Stationery

Have a meal at **Kanoa Resort**

*Weekend
Food Fair!*

NAMI

**ISLA
CAFÉ**

Barefoot
Beach Bar & Bar

Every \$5.00 spent at Isla Café, Nami Bar, Barefoot Beach Bar and the Weekend Food Fair, gets you one (1) raffle ticket
Every Saturday night at 9:30pm there will be a drawing for ten (10) prizes.

FINAL GRAND PRIZE DRAWING
on Friday, December 14, 2012 at 8:30pm



SUPER TRUCKLOAD CHRISTMAS SALE

DIRECT FROM K-MART

STARTING TOMORROW, WEDNESDAY 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM



RCA Portable
DVD Player
with 8 in. Screen
\$99.00



Seiki 22 in. LED TV
\$189.00



Toshiba 32 in. LCD TV
\$399.00



RCA home theater
system **\$169.00**

Proctor Silex Microwave Oven 0.6 **\$59.99**



Soleus 5,000 btu Window AC Unit **\$149.00**



Seiki blu ray DVD disk player **\$84.99**



Sony DVD Player **\$46.00**



Essential Home
Toaster Oven
\$24.99



Procter Silex Iron
(only iron) **\$12.99**

Mr. Coffee
coffee Maker
\$19.99



NW Territory
Folding 6 ft. Table
\$49.99



Kenmore
automatic washer
\$462

Sleepmaster
Folding Guest Bed **\$79.99**



NW territory
deluxe arm chair
\$8.99



Essential Home
micro fiber comforter
\$25.99



Bath Towels,
5 colors **\$5.59** ea.



First Act
Acoustic Guitar
\$39.99



Radio Passport canopy
cruiser wagon **\$79.99**



32 gal. large plastic tote **\$15.99**

Street Flyer
Pogo Stick
\$19.99



Garden Elite
50 ft. Hose **\$9.99**



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MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Need workers? SHRM program graduates 2 more groups of job seekers

Employers seeking warehousemen/stockers, food service workers/wait staff, or administrative staff should contact the CNMI SHRM Workforce Readiness Initiative program office at 233-7476 or by e-mail to flgibson@yahoo.com. The Initiative has U.S. qualified workers available to fill their needs for staff. The Initiative does not charge a placement fee for their services.

Two new groups of job seekers have completed the Society for Human Resource Management's Workforce Readiness Initiative program this past Nov. 16 and Nov. 30 in preparation for entering the CNMI job market. These graduates comprise the 10th and 11th groups of trainees completing the Initiative's program, each group receiving a week of job preparation and basic work skills training to provide them assistance in finding employment in their specific industry. These groups of job seekers, referred by the CNMI Department of Labor and the Workforce Investment Act Office received, for Group 10, direct food service and wait staff training, and, for Group 11, warehousing training. The course also included, for Group 10, the food handler class from the Division of Environmental Health and the attainment of their Food Handlers Certification, and, for Group 11, forklift training and certification.

"There are advertisements in the newspapers almost every day for waiters, waitresses, food service workers, warehousemen, and stockers. We also work with the hotels, logistics companies, and grocery chains to help them fill their continuing needs for new and replacement staff. The SHRM Initiative program has been very successful in helping our students get a start in those job focuses. It prepares them for the job search and has also provided them with basic work skills training," said Frank Gibson, Initiative program manager for SHRM. "Both of these groups had excellent applicants. They were interested and enthusiastic, showed up on time, and participated well. They received good solid training from knowledgeable and experienced instructors from the business community. They will all do well in their chosen focus, whether hospitality and food service or warehousing and other related jobs."

The 10th Initiative program Food Service/Wait Staff participants are Melissa Appleby, Gemma Babauta, Jordan Basa, Brian Cabrera, Bonitalyn Francisco, Rossane Germanario, Jester Kaipat, Zenia Manalo, Jason Norita, Victorino Norita, Eulalia Sarilu, Marcus Savea, and Dolores Singa.

The 11th Initiative program warehousing participants are O'Donnell Alexander, Clarence Amirez, Herman Angui, Paul



Group 10 of the SHRM Workforce Readiness Initiative program.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Camacho, Jerry Eggert, Justin Joseph Leon Guerrero, Masahiro (Thor) Ito, John Taitano, and Anthony Villagomez.

Training for both programs included job preparation classes on job applications and résumés, job interviews, equal employment opportunity and sexual harassment, job search responsibilities, and employer expectations. Skills training classes were provided for the wait staff program on customer service, two classes of basic restaurant services that included both food and beverage services, general culinary and the food handler's certification class. The warehousing program received skills training in customer service, basic warehouse operations, basic warehouse maintenance, basic osha concepts, forklift training and certification, and the opportunity to observe the operation of the CTSI and D&Q warehouses.

Gibson said the students especially benefitted from the professional skills and the interest of the instructors. "I would like to thank SHRM members, Jim Arenovsky from Delta Management, Malou Ernest from Tan Holdings, Evan Hunsberger from the PIC, Josephine Mesta and Denise Montenegro from the Hyatt Regency Saipan, as well as Shawn Sweeney, also from the Hyatt Regency Saipan. Special thanks are owed to Joven Cruz from CTSI Logistics for the warehousing and OSHA training and the use of the CTSI warehouse area as a training venue. I would also like to thank Vicente Aldan, from Ace Hardware CNMI, Inc. for the forklift training and certification, and Max Kretzers, D&Q Company/Tan Holdings, and other staff of CTSI and D&Q

who volunteered their time to assist in the warehouse tour. Special thanks are also owed to Lily Kapileo from the Bureau of Environmental Health for the food handler certification training. I appreciate the business community's, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s, and SHRM's continued assistance."

The Workforce Readiness Initiative is funded by a grant awarded to the CNMI SHRM by the U.S. Department of the Interior through the CNMI Department of Commerce in support of the CNMI Economic and Labor Enhancement Program. This Initiative to benefit the community started on April 16 with a one-

week warehouseman training program and will hold its next training, front desk clerk/administrative skills, on the week of Dec. 10 to 14. This will be the last Initiative program, unless the grant is renewed.

SHRM's role in administering this grant through its Workforce Readiness Initiative is to facilitate the preparation of unemployed U.S. qualified workers through job preparation and skills training, helping them to become better qualified to enter the CNMI job market. The Initiative consists of a series of one week pre-placement training programs with a combination of general employee enhancement

and job specific skills in employment areas where SHRM-member companies and other community businesses have indicated a need for replacement or additional staff.

SHRM seeks the help of the business community to make this program a success and asks that businesses notify the Workforce Readiness Initiative of types of staff that they might need, so that the Initiative can arrange training programs to help fill these needs. SHRM also asks community businesses to work with the Initiative to place the people trained by the various programs into their organizations. In turn, the SHRM

Workforce Readiness Initiative will be working with WIA and the CNMI Department of Labor to obtain suitable candidates that can receive WIA support to help with salary costs.

The Workforce Readiness Initiative is for the benefit of unemployed U.S. qualified workers. Qualified individuals who are registered with WIA or the DOL Employment Services should contact those offices and let them know of their interest. Those who are not registered and are interested in joining one of the Initiative programs should immediately register with WIA and Labor and express their interest. Interested individuals can also contact Gibson by e-mail at hrrsupportcnmi@gmail.com. Again, it must be noted that future Initiative programs are dependent upon a renewal of the federal grant.

Although the Initiative does not guarantee a job for every participant, it will make every effort to get each graduate employed. Several companies have already committed to accepting Initiative graduates and the Initiative will continue to source jobs through its SHRM-member companies and other employers. Companies interested in considering Initiative graduates can also contact Gibson at hrrsupportcnmi@gmail.com.

This program is supported by federal funds in the amount of \$102,000 under the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs, CNMI Economic and Labor Enhancement Program through a sub-grant award to the CNMI Chapter of the Society of Human Resources from the CNMI Department of Commerce. The CNMI SHRM Initiative is managed by HR Support, CNMI, a CNMI-licensed Human Resource Management consulting and training company. (SHRM)



Group 11 of the SHRM Workforce Readiness Initiative program.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

McAfee wants to return to US, 'normal life'

BACALAR, Mexico (AP)—Software company founder John McAfee said Sunday he wants to return to the United States and “settle down to what-ever normal life” he can.

In a live-stream Internet broadcast from the Guatemalan detention center where he is fighting a government order that he be returned to Belize, the 67-year-old said “I simply would like to live comfortably day by day, fish, swim, enjoy my declining years.”

Police in neighboring Belize

want to question McAfee in the fatal shooting of a U.S. expatriate who lived near his home on a Belizean island in November.

The creator of the McAfee antivirus program again denied involvement in the killing during the Sunday Internet video hook-up, during which he answered what he said were reporters' questions.

His comments were sometimes contradictory. McAfee is an acknowledged practical joker who has dabbled in yoga,

ultra-light aircraft and the production of herbal medications.

The British-born McAfee first said that returning to the United States “is my only hope now.” But he later added, “I would be happy to go to England, I have dual citizenship.”

He was emphatic that “I cannot ever return to Belize ... there is no hope for my life if I am ever returned to Belize.”

“If I am returned,” he said, “bad things will clearly happen to me.”



Software company founder John McAfee lies on a gurney inside an ambulance, to be transferred from an immigration detention center to a hospital, in Guatemala City, Thursday, Dec. 6, 2012.

China November trade weak in challenge to economy

BEIJING (AP)—China's trade weakened sharply in November, adding to challenges for the world's second-largest economy as a gradual recovery takes shape.

Export growth plunged to 2.9 percent over a year earlier from the previous month's 11.6 percent, customs data showed Monday. Imports were flat, down from October's 2.4 percent growth.

The figures were in line with analysts' warnings that

a trade rebound that began in August was unsustainable due to weak global demand amid Europe's debt problems and a slow U.S. recovery.

The trade weakness comes as stronger factory production and consumer spending show China is starting to emerge from its deepest economic downturn since the 2008 global crisis.

China's reliance on trade has declined as domestic consumption grows but export-driven manufacturing still employs

millions of workers and any weakness raises the risk of job losses and unrest.

Global demand for China's goods is so weak that the government has said exports likely will contribute nothing to this year's overall economic growth.

The International Monetary Fund and others expect growth this year of below 8 percent. That would be strong by the standards of struggling Western economies but China's weakest performance since the 1990s.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Oil rises as China shows signs of economic upswing

BANGKOK (AP)—The price of oil rose Monday after Chinese data showed higher growth in electricity consumption and industrial production. Benchmark crude for January delivery was up 23 cents to \$86.16 at midday Bangkok time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract fell 33 cents to finish at \$85.93 per barrel on Friday. Signs that China's economy is recovering from a slowdown suggest there will be an increase in demand for energy to fuel its manufacturing industries. The Chinese government reported

Sunday that factory output increased 10.1 percent from a year earlier, compared to the previous month's rise of 9.6 percent year-on-year. Retail sales rose 14.9 percent, up from October's 14.5 percent.

NYC suit against Strauss-Kahn could end in deal

NEW YORK (AP)—Her side said she was seeking justice after prosecutors gave up on her sexual assault case. His said she slandered him in a grab for money. But a hotel housekeeper's lawsuit against former International Monetary Fund leader Dominique Strauss-Kahn may soon end

without a jury ever saying who is right. The maid, Nafissatou Diallo, is expected to be there, but Strauss-Kahn is not, when lawyers for both meet for a key court date at 2 p.m. Monday to update a judge on the status of settlement discussions. If a deal is inked, it could be simply the product of a meeting of financial motives—getting compensated for an alleged wrong versus avoiding further legal expenses and the uncertainty of a trial. It might be fueled by legal calculus in a case with two key figures who could face uncomfortable questions on a witness stand, or by personal desires to move on. Or all of the above.

Nation

Homeless rate steady in latest government estimate

WASHINGTON (AP)—A vigorous effort to house the homeless has been countered somewhat by a sluggish economy.

The federal government and local communities have greatly increased the number of beds available to the homeless over the last four years, either through emergency shelters or through government-subsidized apartments and houses. But the struggling economy contributed to the number of homeless people in the United States remaining stable between January 2011 and January 2012.

The biggest drop occurred with veterans while homelessness within families increased slightly, according to the latest national estimates.

Each January, thousands of workers with local governments and nonprofit agencies fan out across the country to count the number of homeless

people living in shelters and on the streets during a specific 24-hour period. The latest count estimates the number of homeless at 633,782, according to the Housing and Urban Development Department. The year before, the number stood at slightly more than 636,000.

Within those numbers was a more encouraging trend: The percentage of homeless veterans as well as those homeless for more than a year each dropped by about 7 percent. Agencies are focusing their dollars on getting the long-term homeless into permanent housing and then providing them with support services such as counseling and job training.

The Obama administration has set of goal of eliminating veterans' homelessness and chronic homelessness by the end of 2015.

“This report continues a trend that clearly indicates

we are on the right track in the fight to end homelessness among veterans,” said Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki.

Advocates welcomed the numbers, but said they showed there's still a long way to go to meet the administration's goal.

“It's great that we made progress ... but we're obviously not going to end it by 2015 at this pace,” said Nan Roman, president of the National Alliance to End Homelessness.

Mark Johnston, an acting assistant secretary at Housing and Urban Development, said the stable homeless rate during tough economic times was viewed as encouraging news.

Johnston said the federal government is spending about \$1.9 billion to house the homeless. The amount has steadily increased over the years, with a particular boost coming from the 2009 economic stimulus package.

Hope and fear in gay marriage cases at high court

WASHINGTON (AP)—Gay marriage supporters see 41 reasons to fret over the Supreme Court's decision to take up the case of California's ban on same-sex unions.

While nine states allow same-sex partners to marry, or will soon, 41 states do not. Of those, 30 have written gay marriage bans into their state constitutions.

That fact is worrisome to those who firmly believe there is a constitutional right to marry, regardless of sexual orientation, but who also know that the Supreme Court does not often get too far ahead of the country on hot-button social issues.

“Mindful of history, I can't help but be concerned,” said Mary Bonauto, director of the Civil Rights Project at Gay

and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders and a leader in the state-by-state push for marriage equality.

Bonauto was speaking before the court decided on Friday to take up cases on California's constitutional ban on gay marriage and a federal law that denies to gay Americans who are legally married the favorable tax treatment and a range of health and pension benefits otherwise available to married couples.

In 2008, California voters approved the ban, Proposition 8, after the state Supreme Court ruled that gay Californians could marry. Since then, a federal appeals court struck down the constitutional provision, but did not authorize the resumption of same-sex mar-

riages pending appeal.

Bonauto identified three earlier seminal rulings that once and for all outlawed state-backed discrimination, and observed that in each case the number of states that still had the discrimination on the books was far smaller.

Thirteen states still had laws against sodomy when the court said in 2003 that states have no right to intrude on the private, personal conduct of people, regardless of sexual orientation.

Interracial marriage still was illegal in 16 states in 1967 before the high court outlawed race-based state marriage bans.

In 1954, when the court issued its landmark decision in Brown v. Board of Education, 17 states had formally segregated school systems.

ACROSS THE NATION

Police: Boy shot in Pa. was buckling himself in

MERCER, Pa. (AP)—A 7-year-old boy had been buckling himself into his safety seat in the back of his father's truck when he was shot to death after a handgun accidentally went off as his father got in the front seat, police said Sunday. Joseph V. Loughrey, 44, told police he had been trying to sell the guns Saturday at Twigs Reloading Den in East Lackawannock Township, 60 miles north of Pittsburgh. He unloaded the magazine at home, but didn't realize a bullet was still in the chamber, Lt. Eric Hermick said. His son, Craig Allen Loughrey, was shot in the chest and died at the scene. State police Lt.

Eric Hermick said Sunday the father had secured a rifle in the back of the truck and placed his pistol on the console when the handgun went off. Hermick said police are reviewing surveillance video from the store, which helped lay out the chain of events; the video is not being released.

End may be sight for FBI's unloved Hoover building

WASHINGTON (AP)—Just six blocks from the White House, the FBI's hulking headquarters overlooking Pennsylvania Avenue has long been the government building everyone loves to hate. The verdict: It's an ugly, crumbling concrete behemoth, an architectural mishap—all 2.4 million square

feet of it. But in this time of tight budgets, massive deficits and the “fiscal cliff,” the 38-year-old FBI headquarters building has one big thing in its favor. It sits atop very valuable real estate, an entire city block on America's Main Street, midway between the U.S. Capitol and the White House. Just how valuable? The General Services Administration intends to find out. This past week, the agency that oversees all federal buildings issued an invitation to developers: How would you like to build a new headquarters for the FBI in a different location? In exchange, we'll consider throwing in the J. Edgar Hoover building and the underlying land as part of the transaction.

Asia

300 fishermen missing in PH storm



Residents affected by typhoon Bopha beg for aid from passing motorists along a highway at Montevista township, Compostela Valley in southern Philippines Sunday Dec. 9, 2012.

NEW BATAAN, Philippines (AP)—The number of people missing after a typhoon devastated the Philippines jumped to nearly 900 after families and fishing companies reported losing contact with more than 300 fishermen at sea, officials said.

The fishermen from southern General Santos city and nearby Sarangani province left a few days before Typhoon Bopha hit the main southern island of Mindanao on Tuesday, Civil Defense chief Benito Ramos said. The death toll has already surpassed 600, mostly from flash floods that wiped away precarious communities in the southern region unaccustomed to typhoons.

Ramos said the fishermen were headed to the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea and to the Pacific Ocean. Coast guard, navy and fishing vessels are searching for them, and some may have sought shelter on the many small islands in the area.

“Maybe they are still alive,” Ramos said Sunday.

Bopha was dissipating finally in the South China Sea after briefly veering back toward the country’s northwest on Saturday, prompting worries of more devastation.

Rescuers were searching for bodies or signs of life under tons of fallen trees and boulders in the worst-hit town of New

Bataan, where rocks, mud and other rubble destroyed landmarks, making it doubly difficult to search places where houses once stood.

Hundreds of refugees, rescuers and aid workers took a break Sunday to watch the Manny Pacquiao-Juan Manuel Marquez fight on a big TV screen, only to be dismayed by their hero’s sixth-round knockout.

Elementary school teacher Constancio Olivar said people fell silent when Pacquiao, a congressman who comes from the southern Philippines where the storm hit, fell heavily to the canvas and remained motionless for some time.

Govt: Building felled by NZ quake poorly built

SYDNEY (AP)—A six-story office building that collapsed and killed 115 people in New Zealand’s devastating earthquake last year was poorly designed by an inexperienced engineer, inadequately constructed and should never have been issued a building permit, a government report said Monday.

The Canterbury Television (CTV) building crumbled to the ground during the 6.1-magnitude earthquake that rocked Christchurch on Feb. 22, 2011. The building’s collapse was responsible for nearly two-thirds of the 185 deaths from the quake.

Monday’s report was the final

release from the government-ordered commission that spent months investigating the buildings damaged in the quake. Findings the commission released in February concluded that the CTV building was made of weak columns and concrete and did not meet standards when it was built in 1986. The building’s designer contested those findings.

Prime Minister John Key said building failures were responsible for 175 of the 185 deaths from the quake.

“We owed it to them, their loved ones left behind, and those people badly injured in the earthquake, to find an-

swers as to why some buildings failed so severely,” Key said in a statement.

The report found several deficiencies in the CTV building’s engineering design and said the city council should never have issued the building a permit because the design did not comply with the standards at the time. The commission also concluded that there were problems with the building’s construction.

The commission blamed the engineers from Alan Reay Consultants Ltd. for developing an inadequate and noncompliant design and city officials for not noticing the problems.

India. The report Sunday cited a police statement as saying that confessions and an investigation showed that the detained monk, Lorang Konchok, 40, from Kirti Monastery in Sichuan’s Aba county, kept in frequent contact with supporters of the Dalai Lama overseas and had recruited eight volunteers for self-immolations since 2009, telling them they would be “heroes.” Three of the protesters died, the report said.

Taliban attack Pakistan police station, kill 6

BANNU, Pakistan (AP)—Taliban militants armed with a

rocket, hand grenades and automatic weapons attacked a police station in northwestern Pakistan on Monday, killing six people, police said. The attack occurred in the city of Bannu, which serves as a gateway to the North Waziristan tribal area, the main sanctuary for Taliban and al-Qaida militants in Pakistan. The city has been hit by repeated attacks over the year. The militants began the attack by firing a rocket at the gate of the police station and tossing hand grenades, triggering a battle with police last lasted over an hour, said senior police officer Wagar Ahmed.

World

Islamist-leaning draft charter divides Egypt

CAIRO (AP)—President Mohammed Morsi is unlikely to worry if Egypt’s Islamist-leaning draft constitution passes by only a small margin in a Dec. 15 referendum, since he and his backers tout his 51 percent election victory in June as a “popular mandate” that is beyond any challenge.

Still, an idea taking root among many secular Egyptians is that a constitution requires a reasonable degree of consensus to qualify as a charter for all—and that it is fundamentally illegitimate to ram one through by a simple majority despite opposition from key sectors of society that oppose giving religion such a major role in the affairs of state.

“It is irrational to have a constitution that does not genuinely represent everyone,” said Kahlil al-Anani, a British-based expert on Egypt. “It is important that a constitution is passed with a comfortable majority, but it does not make the document less credible if it is a

modest majority.”

The proposed constitution is at the heart of the nation’s worst political crisis since the overthrow nearly two years ago of authoritarian President Hosni Mubarak. The charter has divided Egypt, with Morsi and his Islamist backers, including ultraconservative Salafis, in one camp, and secularists and leftists, including minority Christians and women, in the other.

At least six civilians have been killed in street clashes and several offices of the president’s Muslim Brotherhood torched in the unrest.

With such deep polarization, Morsi on Saturday offered the opposition a mixed bag: He rescinded decrees he issued Nov. 22 that gave him near absolute powers, but he insisted the referendum go ahead as scheduled.

The opposition’s response was to call for more street protests to try to force him to abandon the draft constitution.

There may only be a small

chance of Morsi doing that.

Islamists from the Muslim Brotherhood and other like-minded groups are already campaigning for a “yes” vote, marketing the referendum and the adoption of a constitution as the door to stability and economic recovery. If adopted, elections for parliament’s lawmaking lower chamber—dissolved by a court ruling in June—must be held within two months.

The opposition’s apparent despair over whether it can stop the referendum from going ahead is deepening the schism between Islamists and non-Islamists. Many Egyptians worry it will produce a constitution that is far from representative of the country’s 85 million people.

Critics say Egypt is approaching the referendum with a heavy heart rather than the jubilation that supposedly accompanies an occasion that, at least in theory, should be a milestone in the shift from authoritarian rule to democracy.

Israel grows jittery of new Palestinian uprising

JERUSALEM (AP)—The rising confidence and bellicosity of Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip, combined with rapidly deteriorating relations with Israel’s would-be peace partner in the West Bank, are raising jitters in Israel that a new Palestinian uprising could be near.

A number of prominent voices urged Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday to take steps to ease the tensions and bolster the Western-backed Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas. Netanyahu’s political rival, former Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, warned that renewed violence might not be “far off.”

But the Israeli leader stood tough. Poised for re-election, it appears unlikely he will float a bold new initiative anytime soon. “We in the government have no illusions. We want a true peace with our neighbors. But we will not close our eyes and stick our heads in the sand,” Netanyahu told his Cabinet.

Over the past month, Netanyahu has taken a series of steps that appear to have unintentionally emboldened the rival Palestinian leaderships in Gaza and the West Bank.

In mid-November, Israel carried out an eight-day military offensive in Gaza in response to months of intensifying rock-

et fire from the Hamas-ruled territory.

Although Israel claimed to inflict heavy damage, the operation failed to halt the rocket fire before an Egyptian-brokered cease-fire took hold and Hamas emerged intact. Hamas has claimed victory, won newfound recognition across the Middle East and boosted its popularity with the Palestinian public.

Hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets of Gaza over the weekend to welcome the movement’s exiled leader, Khaled Mashaal, as the Islamic militant group celebrated its 25th anniversary with rallies, speeches and displays of weapons.

WORLD BRIEFS

Ghana’s president declared election winner

ACCRA, Ghana (AP)—President John Dramani Mahama on Sunday was declared the winner of Ghana’s presidential election, despite widespread technical glitches with the machines used to identify voters and protests by the country’s opposition which claims the vote was rigged. Armored tanks surrounded Ghana’s electoral commission and police barricaded the road around the electoral offices as the election body’s chairman Kwadwo Afari-Gyan announced that Mahama had polled 5.5 million votes, or 50.7 percent. Opposition leader Nana Akufo-Addo, who lost the 2008 election by less than 1 percent, came in second with 5.2 million votes, or 47.7 percent, Afari-Gyan said. Voter turnout was

high, with around 80 percent of the roughly 14 million registered voters casting ballots in Friday’s presidential and parliamentary elections. In a draft statement seen by reporters, the opposition said it would contest the results.

Kazakhstan mulls ending Russia’s cosmodrome lease

ALMATY, Kazakhstan (AP)—The head of Kazakhstan’s space agency says Russia’s lease of a launch facility in the Central Asian nation could be suspended. Interfax-Kazakhstan news agency cited Kazcosmos head Talgat Musabayev as telling Parliament on Monday that proposals are being considered to bring the facility under Kazakhstan’s jurisdiction. Russia pays Kazakhstan \$115 million annually for use of the Soviet-built Baikonur in a deal

expiring in 2050.

Report: 4 Lebanese killed in Syria-linked fighting

BEIRUT (AP)—Lebanon’s official news agency says four people have been killed in fighting in the Lebanese city of Tripoli between gunmen loyal to opposite sides in Syria’s civil war. The state-run National News Agency says 12 others were wounded in the clashes Sunday. Tripoli has been the scene of frequent sectarian clashes during the Syria civil war. The fighting has sometimes spilled across Syria’s borders, raising concerns of a regional war. Last week the Lebanese army sent additional troops to Tripoli to try to prevent clashes that followed reports of 17 Lebanese men killed after entering Syria to fight alongside the mostly Sunni rebels.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Chinese police accuse monk of inciting immolations

BEIJING (AP)—Police detained a monk and his nephew in China’s Sichuan province and accused them of instigating the self-immolations of eight ethnic Tibetans on the instructions of the Dalai Lama and his followers, state media said. The report in the official Xinhua News Agency did not detail what evidence police had of the exiled Buddhist spiritual leader’s involvement—which was denied by the self-declared Tibetan government-in-exile in northern

Overdrive

Buying used cars may be a great holiday strategy

By **JIM GALLAGHER**
ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

If you're looking for a car, love snow. Love ice. Delight in shivering.

Used car prices tend to dip when the weather is cold, and deals are best in winter.

You'll get a better deal on a used car today than had you shopped a few months ago. But if you can wait a little longer, the deal might look a little sweeter.

Let's talk about used cars first, and new cars further on.

The Great Recession had a perverse effect on the used car market—it pushed prices up. Fewer people buying new cars meant fewer nice used cars showing up on the car lots, and higher prices.

Prices last year hit "the highest levels ever seen," said Alec Gutierrez, senior market analyst at Kelley Blue Book.

Prices began to ease this spring. The average U.S. wholesale price of a used car at auction

shrank from \$9,922 in March to \$8,683 in September, according to ADESA Analytics. They kept shrinking through mid-October. Then came warnings about Hurricane Sandy, and by October's end prices were at \$8,803.

Prices rose in anticipation that soggy Easterners would soon be replacing swamped cars.

Prices on used car lots reflect the wholesale auctions. Gutierrez is betting that the Sandy effect will fade and prices will be down by an additional 1 or 2 percent over the winter. "We're not expecting prices to fall off a cliff," he said.

Part of the decline is seasonal; prices tend to fall in the cold months and rise in spring, when shoppers leave hibernation. It also reflects more nice used cars coming on the market as new car sales rise, producing trade-ins.

Then there's a flock of former lease cars expected to hit the used car market in 2013, reflecting a rise in auto leases

Front-seat floor of pickup gets soaked when it rains

By **PAUL BRAND**
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: I own a 1997 Dodge 3500 pickup I bought used about 10 years ago, and this problem came with the truck. When it rains, water gets inside. It accumulates in the carpet in front of the front seats. In the past I have had the windshield replaced and sealed and also sealed the roof-mounted amber lights—to no avail. Awhile back I took an awl and punched some holes in the floor on each side so the water will drain out. Although I've tried to dry the carpet, the bare metal under the dash is starting to rust and I'm fearful some of the electrical components will corrode. If I cover the cab from the rear of the doors to the middle of the hood, the water does not come in. What are the different possibilities I should investigate?

ANSWER: If it's not the windshield, the most common source of water collecting on the front floors is a plugged drain for the HVAC evaporator housing. Rainwater enters from the fresh air vents at the base of the windshield and should drain out at the firewall behind the right front wheel. Punching holes in the steel floor probably wasn't a good idea because it created openings in the painted surface allowing that evil rust to start. As far as drying out carpets, the biggest issue is the carpet padding, which can't be completely dried out and should be replaced.

Check for a blockage in the condensate drain tube, which allows water to drain from the evaporator housing. Access is typically from underneath the vehicle at the firewall, so take all necessary safety precautions and use a flexible piece of small-diameter wire or cable to gently probe and clear the drain tube.

Q: My 1999 Porsche Boxster was in storage for over one month and now the battery is dead. To open the front hood to access the battery, local dealers suggested jumping the C3 fuse in the fuse box with a spare battery. I connected the positive to both terminals on the fuse and the negative to the door frame as suggested—but no luck. The dash lights came up faintly once the fuse was jumped but the hood release did not work.

A: I looked up Porsche's emergency unlocking instructions in my Alldata database and find that you were on the right track by connecting battery voltage to both terminals of the C3 fuse. But there's one more step in the instructions. With the driver door open and the jumper connected, use the key to lock and unlock the door. Once this is done, the hood release should work.

Q: We have a 2004 Chrysler 300M that has an intermittent problem with the background lights on the instrument panel. Sometimes the background lights for the speedometer and tachometer



Michael Riggio, owner of Michael Riggio Auto Sales in St. Louis, Missouri, wipes down a car for sale on his lot on November 20, 2012.

three years ago. All of that should push down used car prices next year.

Shoppers usually do better

gauge will not come on in any position of the light switch. The background lights for the gas gauge, radiator temperature and clock always work. Of course, the dealership says it can't fix the problem unless the lights are not working when the car is there. What can I do?

A: Ask the dealer to check service bulletin #08-022-03, which identifies intermittent outages or changes in dash illumination. It suggests, rather than replacing the headlight switch, that you access the switch harness and unplug and plug it in three times to clean the contacts, then apply dielectric grease to the terminals.

NOTE: Regarding the loss of power steering on a 2003 Suburban, thanks to Rick Brandt for this tip: "I have experienced these power steering 'come and go' problems before on high mileage GM vehicles. I have found a simple cleaning of the reluctor rings on the variable effort steering switch (VES) can solve the problem. The switch is on the steering shaft, either just inside the firewall or outside."

Paul Brand, author of *How to Repair Your Car*, is an automotive troubleshooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver. Readers may write to him at: Star Tribune, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn., 55488 or via email at paulbrand@startribune.com. Please explain the problem in detail and include a daytime phone number. Because of the volume of mail, we cannot provide personal replies.

buying low-mileage used cars instead of new ones. That new car smell just isn't worth the rapid loss in value when a new car leaves the lot.

But that may no longer be true for little gas-sippers, says Jesse Toprak, analyst at TrueCar.com, an online car buying site. Honda Civics, Toyota Corollas and

the like are commanding high prices used—so high that new models may be the better deal, considering low-cost financing, other sales incentives and new-car warranties.

December is usually a good month for making a deal on a new car. A few of last year's models are still aging on the lot.

Sales are slow because people are busy with Christmas, and dealers feel some pressure to get sales numbers up before New Year's.

"That's changing a little bit, especially this year," Toprak said.

New passenger car sales are up 19 percent this year, although they're still below pre-recession levels. SUVs and crossovers are up 8 percent. As a result, makers and dealers have lost much of the desperation that drove big incentives a couple of years ago.

Manufacturers' incentives are stingier now, said Toprak, and they tilt more toward cheap loans and lease deals. There are plenty of cash-back discounts around, but they're not as sweet as they used to be.

A final hurricane warning: Cars totaled by flooding may soon be sold to unsuspecting buyers on used car lots. Sleazy middlemen skirt the requirement that recovered cars that have been submerged be sold with salvage titles. A CarFax check may or may not reveal the truth, said Toprak. Beware that new-fish smell or a glitchy electrical system.

FIRST YEAR DEATH ANNIVERSARY

We the family of the late

*Juliana Blas
Reyes Lizama*
"Tempo"



Invite all our family and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the First Death Anniversary of my beloved wife, our mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

Daily Mass is offered at San Vicente Church

December 6th, Thursday at 6:00pm
December 7th, Friday at 6:00pm
December 8th, Saturday at 9:00am
December 9th, Sunday at 6:00am
December 10th – 13th, Monday through Thursday at 6:00pm
December 14th, Friday at 6:00am

Your presence, thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Mariano Crisostimo Lizama, Children, Grandchildren and Great-grandchildren

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Playing for Keeps

Friday		4:20	7:20	9:40
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:40
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Monday thru Thursday			7:20	

Cast: Gerard Butler, Jessica Biel, Dennis Quaid
Genre: Comedy • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Gerard Butler, Jessica Biel, Uma Thurman, Catherine Zeta-Jones and Dennis Quaid star in "Playing For Keeps," a romantic comedy about a charming, down-on-his luck former soccer star (Butler) who returns home to put his life back together. Looking for a way to rebuild his relationship with his son, he gets roped into coaching the boy's soccer team.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Rise of the Guardians 3D

Friday		7:30	9:45
Saturday	1:30	7:30	9:45
Sunday	1:30	7:30	
Monday thru Thursday		7:30	

Cast: Chris Pine, Hugh Jackman, Alec Baldwin
Genre: Children's/family • Rated PG



Life of Pi 3D

Friday		7:05	9:50
Saturday	1:05	7:05	9:50
Sunday	1:05	7:05	
Monday thru Thursday		7:05	

Cast: Suraj Sharma, Irfan Khan, Tabu, Rafe Spall
Genre: Drama, Adventure • Rated PG



Red Dawn

Friday		4:25	7:25	9:35
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:35
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	
Monday thru Thursday		4:25	7:25	

Chris Hemsworth, Josh Peck, Josh Hutcherson
Genre: Action • Rated PG13



Life of Pi 2D

Friday		4:05	
Saturday		4:05	
Sunday		4:05	
Monday thru Thursday		4:05	

Cast: Suraj Sharma, Irfan Khan, Tabu, Rafe Spall
Genre: Drama, Adventure • Rated PG



Rise of the Guardians 2D

Friday		4:30	
Saturday		4:30	
Sunday		4:30	
Monday thru Thursday		4:30	

Cast: Chris Pine, Hugh Jackman, Alec Baldwin
Genre: Children's/family • Rated PG



Twilight: Breaking Dawn Part 2

Friday		4:00	7:00	9:30
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:30
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Monday thru Thursday		4:00	7:00	

Cast: Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson, Taylor Lautner
Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG13



Flight

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:55
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:55
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Monday thru Thursday		4:10	7:10	

Cast: Denzel Washington, Don Cheadle, Kelly Reilly
Genre: Drama • Rated R



Skyfall

Friday		4:15	7:15	10:00
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	10:00
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Monday thru Thursday		4:15	7:15	

Cast: Daniel Craig, Judi Dench, Javier Bardem
Genre: Spy film, Action • Rated PG13

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Life & Style

Singer feared dead in Mexican plane crash

MONTERREY, Mexico (AP)—The wreckage of a small plane believed to be carrying Jenni Rivera, the U.S.-born singer whose soulful voice and unfettered discussion of a series of personal travails made her a Mexican-American superstar, was found in northern Mexico on Sunday. Authorities said there were no survivors.

The singer's father, Pedro Rivera, said he thinks his daughter was on board the plane and that her brother will travel to Mexico on Monday to identify what they presumed were her remains.

Born in Long Beach, California, Jenni Rivera was at the peak of her career as perhaps the most successful female singer in gruperio, a male-dominated regional style influenced by the norteno, cumbia and ranchero styles.

A 43-year-old mother of five children and grandmother of two, the woman known as the "Diva de la Banda" was known for her frank talk about her struggles to give a good life to her children despite a series of setbacks.

She was recently divorced from her third husband, was once detained at a Mexico City airport with tens of thousands of dollars in cash, and she publicly apologized after her brother assaulted a drunken fan who verbally attacked her in 2011.

Her openness about her personal troubles endeared her to millions in the U.S. and Mexico.

"I am the same as the public, as my fans," she told The Associated Press in an interview last March.

Rivera sold 15 million records, and recently won two Billboard Mexican Music Awards: Female Artist of the Year and Banda Album of the Year for "Joyas prestadas: Banda." She was nominated for Latin Grammys in 2002, 2008 and 2011.

Transportation and Communications Minister Gerardo Ruiz



AP
In this picture taken March 8, 2012, Mexican-American singer and reality TV star Jenni Rivera poses during an interview in Los Angeles.

Esparza said "everything points toward" the wreckage belonging to the plane carrying Rivera and six other people to Toluca, outside Mexico City, from Monterrey, where the singer had just given a concert.

"There is nothing recognizable, neither material nor human" in the wreckage found in the state of Nuevo Leon, Ruiz Esparza said. The impact was so powerful that the remains of the plane "are scattered over an area of 250 to 300 meters. It is almost unrecognizable."

Rivera's father told dozens of reporters gathered in front of his Los Angeles-area home that "I believe my daughter's body is unrecognizable."

"My son Lupillo told me that effectively it was Jenni's plane that crashed and that everyone on board died," Pedro Rivera said.

Rivera said his son would travel to Monterrey early Monday morning.

No cause was given for the plane's crash, but its wreckage

was found near the town of Iturbide in Mexico's Sierra Madre Oriental, where the terrain is very rough.

The Learjet 25, number N345MC, took off from Monterrey at 3:30 a.m. local time and was reported missing about 10 minutes later. It was registered to Starwood Management of Las Vegas, Nevada, according to FAA records. It was built in 1969 and had a current registration through 2015.

Media and celebrities in Mexico sent condolences to Rivera's family even though authorities still had not confirmed that she was aboard the plane and said an investigation would be conducted.

"My friend! Why? There is no consolation. God, please help me!" said Mexican pop singer Paulina Rubio on her official Twitter account. Singer Miguel Bose, who appears on the Mexican show "The Mexican Voice" along with Rivera, wrote on his Twitter account: "My dear

Jenni, you will always be in my heart. Forever. I love you."

Also believed aboard the plane were her publicist, Arturo Rivera, her lawyer, makeup artist and the flight crew.

Though drug trafficking was the theme of some of her songs, she was not considered a singer of "narco corridos," or ballads glorifying drug lords like other groups, such as Los Tigres del Norte. She was better known for singing about her troubles in love and disdain for men.

Her parents were Mexicans who had migrated to the United States. Two of her five brothers, Lupillo and Juan Rivera, are also well-known singers of gruperio music.

She studied business administration and formally debuted on the music scene in 1995 with the release of her album "Chalcala". Due to its success, she recorded two more independent albums, "We Are Rivera" and "Farewell to Selena," a tribute album to slain singer Selena that helped expand her following.

At the end of the 1990s, Rivera was signed by Sony Music and released two more albums. But widespread success came for her when she joined Fonovisa and released her 2005 album titled "Partier, Rebellious and Daring."

Besides being a singer, she is also a businesswoman and actress, appearing in the indie film Filly Brown, which was shown at the Sundance Film Festival, as the incarcerated mother of Filly Brown.

She was filming the third season of "I love Jenni," which followed her as she shared special moments with her children and as she toured through Mexico and the United States. She also has the reality shows: "Jenni Rivera Presents: Chiquis and Raq-C" and her daughter's "Chiquis 'n Control."

Rolling Stones rock Brooklyn at anniversary gig

NEW YORK (AP)—It sure didn't feel like a farewell.

The Rolling Stones—average age 68-plus, if you're counting—were in rollicking form as they rocked the Barclays Center in Brooklyn for 2½ hours Saturday night, their first U.S. show on a mini-tour marking a mind-boggling 50 years as a rock band.

And although every time the Stones tour, the inevitable questions arise—whether it's "The Last Time," to quote one of their songs—there was no sign that anything is ending anytime soon.

"People say, why do you keep doing this?" mused 69-year-old Mick Jagger, the band's impossibly energetic frontman, before launching into "Brown Sugar." "Why do you keep touring,

coming back? The answer is, you're the reason we're doing this. Thank you for buying our records and coming to our shows for the last 50 years."

Jagger was in fine form, with strong vocals and his usual swagger—strutting, jogging, skipping and pumping his arms like a man half his age. And though he briefly donned a flamboyant feathered black cape for "Sympathy for the Devil" and later, some red-sequined tails, he was mostly content to prowl the stage in a tight black T-shirt and trousers.

The band's guitarists, the brilliant Keith Richards and Ronnie Wood, alternated searing solos and occasionally ventured onto a stage extension that brought them closer to the crowd. The now-gray Richards, wearing a

red bandana, exuded the easy familiarity of a favorite uncle: "While we wait for Ronnie," he said at one point, "I'll wish you happy holidays." Watts, the dapper drummer in a simple black T-shirt, smiled frequently at his band mates.

The grizzled quartet was joined on "Gimme Shelter" by Mary J. Blige, who traded vocals with Jagger and earned a huge cheer at the end. Also visiting: the Texas blues guitarist Gary Clark Jr.

The sense of nostalgia was heightened by projections on a huge screen of footage of the early days, when the Stones looked like teenagers. At one point, Jagger reminisced about the first time the band played New York—in 1964.

A carton of milk cost only a

quarter then, he said. And a ticket to the Rolling Stones? "I don't want to go there," he quipped. It was a reference to the sky-high prices at the current "50 and Counting" shows, where even the "cheap" seats cost a few hundred dollars and a prime seat cost in the \$700 range or higher.

From the opening number, "Get Off Of My Cloud," the band played a generous 23 songs, including two new ones—"Doom and Gloom" and "One More Shot"—but mostly old favorites. The rousing encore included "Jumping Jack Flash," of course, but the final song was "Satisfaction." And though the song speaks of not getting any, the consensus of the packed 18,000-seat arena was that it was a satisfying evening indeed.

Australian radio chair: Station reviewing policy

LONDON (AP)—The reverberations from the death of a nurse who accepted a hoax phone call about the ill Duchess of Cambridge spread through two countries Sunday, as Australian authorities said London police had contacted them about a possible investigation.

The Australian radio station behind the call also announced an immediate review of its broadcast practices after the

debacle, which began with a prank call made Tuesday to the hospital where the former Kate Middleton was being treated for acute morning sickness.

Two radio DJs managed to impersonate Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Charles and received confidential information about the Duchess's medical condition, which was broadcast on-air. The controversial prank took a dark twist three days later with

the death of nurse Jacintha Saldanha, a 46-year-old mother of two, who was duped by the DJs despite their Australian accents.

The death has sparked an angry backlash against the DJs, who have been taken off the air indefinitely.

After an emergency meeting Sunday, Max Moore-Wilton, the chairman of parent company Southern Cross Austereo, which owns the 2DayFM radio station,

said in a letter to the hospital's chairman that the company will cooperate with any investigation.

"It is too early to know the full details leading to this tragic event and we are anxious to review the results of any investigation that may be made available to us or made public," he wrote. "I can assure you we are taking immediate action and reviewing the broadcast and processes involved."

'Amour' takes top prize from LA film critics

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The French-language drama "Amour" was chosen Sunday as the year's best film by the Los Angeles Film Critics Association, whose prizes are among a flurry of year-end honors that help sort out the Academy Awards race.

Among the group's other honors, the 1950s cult drama "The Master" earned four awards: best director for Paul Thomas Anderson, best actor for Joaquin Phoenix, supporting actress for Amy Adams and production design for David Crank and Jack Fisk.

"The Master" also was chosen as best-picture runner-up. The film stars Phoenix as a volatile World War II veteran who comes under the sway of a charismatic cult leader. Adams co-stars as the cult leader's tough-minded wife.

"Amour" star Emmanuelle Riva, who plays an elderly, ailing woman being cared for by her husband, shared the best-actress honor in a tie with Jennifer Lawrence of the lost-soul romance "Silver Linings Playbook."

Newcomer Dwight Henry was chosen as supporting actor for the low-budget critical darling "Beasts of the Southern Wild." The film's writer-director, Benh Zeitlin, received the group's New Generation Award and shared the prize for best music score with composing partner Dan Romer.

Directed by Michael Haneke, "Amour" is Austria's entry for the foreign-language Oscar and won the top honor at the Cannes Film Festival in May.



'Skyfall,' 'Guardians' duel for box-office win

This undated handout file photo released by Columbia Pictures shows Daniel Craig as James Bond in the action adventure film, "Skyfall."

AP

LOS ANGELES (AP)—James Bond is in a box-office photo finish with Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny over what looks to be the last slow weekend of the holidays.

According to studio estimates Sunday, Sony's Bond tale "Skyfall" took in \$11 million to move back to No. 1 in its fifth weekend.

That put it narrowly ahead of Paramount's "Rise of the Guardians," the animated adventure of Santa, the Easter Bunny and other mythological heroes that pulled in \$10.5 million.

The two movies inched ahead of Summit Entertainment's "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn—Part 2," which had been tops for three-straight weekends. The "Twilight" finale earned \$9.2 million, slipping into a tight race for No. 3 with Disney's "Lincoln," which was close behind with \$9.1 million.

The top movies were bunched up so closely that rankings could change once final weekend revenues are released Monday.

The weekend's only new wide release, Gerard Butler's

1. "Skyfall," \$11 million (\$20.3 million).
2. "Rise of the Guardians," \$10.5 million (\$26 million international).
3. "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn—Part 2," \$9.2 million (\$23.5 million international).
4. "Lincoln," \$9.1 million.
5. "Life of Pi," \$8.3 million (\$23.8 million international).
6. "Playing for Keeps," \$6 million (\$2.5 million international).
7. "Wreck-It Ralph," \$4.9 million (\$5.8 million international).
8. "Red Dawn," \$4.3 million.
9. "Flight," \$3.1 million.
10. "Killing Them Softly," \$2.7 million (\$1.4 million international).

romantic comedy "Playing for Keeps," flopped with \$6 million, coming in at No. 6.

"Skyfall" raised its domestic total to \$261.6 million and added \$20.3 million overseas to bring its international income to \$656.6 million. At \$918 million worldwide, "Skyfall" has the best cash haul ever for the Bond franchise and surpassed "Spider-Man 3" at

\$890 million to become Sony's top-grossing hit.

The "Twilight" finale also is a franchise record-breaker, surpassing the \$710 million worldwide haul of last year's "Breaking Dawn—Part 1." The finale's domestic total now stands at \$268.7 million.

"Rise of the Guardians" led the international box office with \$26 million, followed by 20th Century Fox's "Life of Pi" at \$23.8 million.

It was another traditionally quiet post-Thanksgiving holiday weekend, with big November releases continuing to dominate in the lull before a pre-Christmas onslaught of movies.

The box office is expected to soar next weekend with the arrival of part one of "The Hobbit," Peter Jackson's "The Lord of the Rings" prelude. After that comes a steady rush of action, comedy and drama through year's end, including Tom Cruise's "Jack Reacher," Quentin Tarantino and Jamie Foxx's "Django Unchained," Seth Rogen's "The Guilt Trip" and Hugh Jackman and Russell Crowe's "Les Misérables."

Husband's hairpiece attracts unwanted attention in public

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My husband wears a hairpiece. Unfortunately, it doesn't look very real. Nearly every time we are in a public place, I notice somebody staring or laughing at it. I have talked to him about it only a couple of times, but each time he tells me how attached he is to it and how good it feels on his head. I want him to be happy, but I do not want him to be publicly ridiculed. Should I throw it away?



Dear Abby

WIFE OF A MAN WITH A "SECRET"

DEAR WIFE: Absolutely not. If you want to help your husband, start talking with some hairstylists. There may be a product on the market that is more convincing than what your husband is wearing. (Depending upon how much hair he has on the back of his head, a transplant of some follicles may also be possible.) This isn't just about him having something on his head that "feels good." If it was only that, he'd be wearing a hat.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am recently married, and my husband and I have not consummated our marriage. I made it very clear that this would not be a part of our life together, and he agreed long before we took our vows. We sleep separately.

Recently, my husband has become sullen and passive-aggressive. He tries to push the issue, to the point of making unwanted physical contact. He knew going in that I am extremely uncomfortable with this form of intimacy and that my views would not change.

We love each other, but his behavior is starting to take a toll on me and the stress is straining our relationship. Please help.

ASEXUAL IN LOVE

DEAR ASEXUAL: You and your husband are obviously not on the same page as far as what your expectations are about your marriage. How uncomfortable for you and how frustrating for him. He may have thought that after your wedding, with time, he could change your mind—or he may regard your lack of interest in sex as personal rejection.

For the kind of marriage you envisioned, BOTH parties must feel the same way about sex. Because he agreed to something he can't live with, it might be better for both of you if you separated.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Would you please settle a disagreement I'm having with my mother's boyfriend?

The three of us go out to eat together often. Most times we "go Dutch" and pay for our own meals. The problem arises when he pays for my meal. He'll request the senior price for all of us because he's paying.

I believe the senior discount should apply to the seniors in the group only, and mine should be the regular price. I don't think it's wrong to ask for the senior discount for theirs when I'm paying, but do not feel right claiming it for mine. (I'm more than 20 years away from qualifying.)

It embarrasses me when he does it. I'd much rather pay the full adult price. Even if it's only 50 cents, I still feel like it's cheating.

Shouldn't a senior discount apply to items being purchased for the senior, or should the senior be able to apply their discount for everyone at the table, even if the person is underage?

KIM IN IOWA CITY

DEAR KIM: Senior discounts are intended to accommodate people who are presumably retired and living on a fixed income. That said, various restaurants make their own rules. If they are willing to comply when your mother's boyfriend asks that everyone be included in the discount, it's no reflection on you if he's the one doing the asking and paying the bill.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Obamas attend annual holiday concert in Washington

WASHINGTON (AP)—A holiday concert attended Sunday by President Barack Obama and his family included some non-traditional entertainment this year: a performance by South Korean rapper and Internet sensation PSY. PSY—wearing an all-red outfit including a sparkling, sequined top—was backed by dancers wearing reindeer antlers as he performed his popular "Gangnam Style" dance, which mimics riding a horse. The rapper, born Park

Jae-sang, had apologized Friday for using what he called "inflammatory and inappropriate language" during anti-U.S. protests at concerts in 2002 and 2004. The flak from his remarks didn't dampen the festive holiday mood Sunday. Other performers at the charity concert included Diana Ross, Demi Lovato, "American Idol" winner Scotty McCreery and Megan Hilty, star of the NBC musical drama "Smash." In brief remarks, Obama said the celebration was "a chance to get in the Christmas spirit, spread some joy and sing along with art-

ists who have much better voices than we do."

Katt Williams arrested near Sacramento

SACRAMENTO, California (AP)—Comedian Katt Williams has been arrested in northern California on a felony warrant related to a police chase. The Sacramento Bee reports that Williams was arrested Friday night in Dunnigan, about 25 miles (40 kilometers) north of Sacramento, by Yolo County deputies. The paper says he was released from the county jail Saturday after

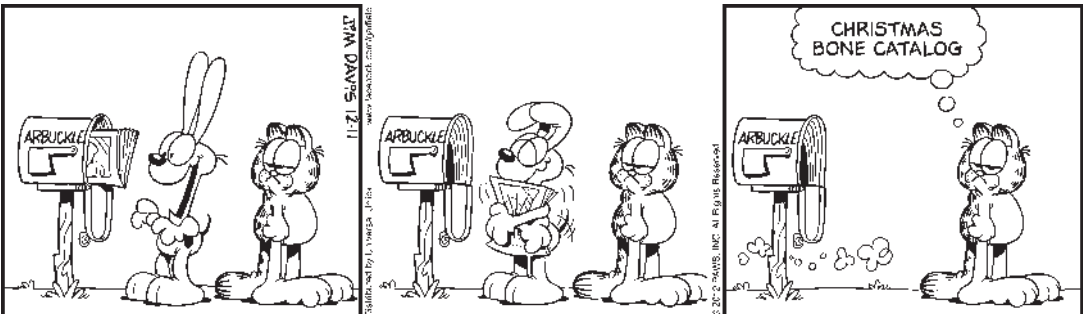
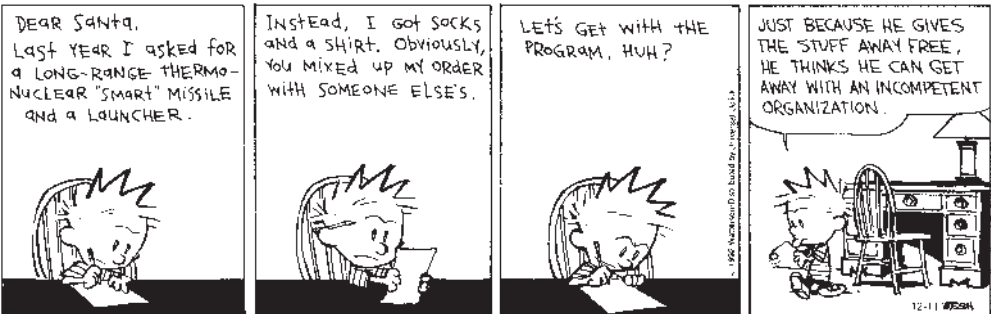
posting bail. The sheriff's department confirmed Williams' arrest late Saturday, but staffers on duty didn't have details. A spokesman for the comedian didn't immediately return a call and email. The California Highway Patrol says Williams fled officers on a three-wheeled motorcycle on Nov. 25 after being spotted driving on a downtown Sacramento sidewalk. The CHP said Williams was asked to stop and refused, leading to the pursuit. The CHP says Williams nearly hit five people during the chase, which police ended for safety reasons.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson Garfield®

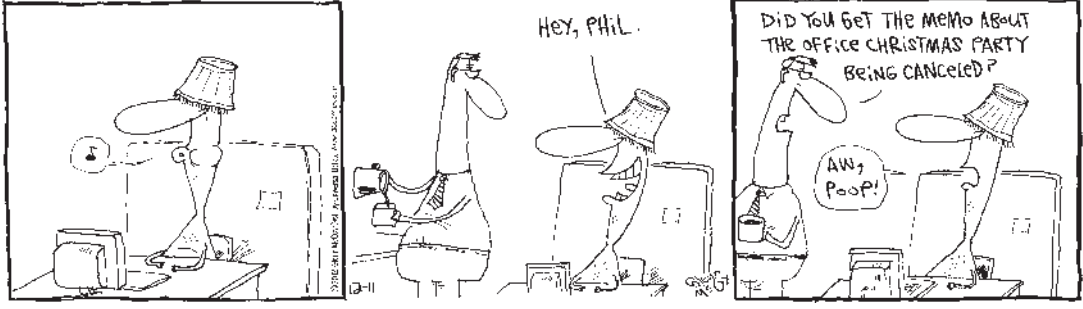
By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Resorts

5 Sch. org.

8 Branch

12 Hide

13 Rowing need

14 Heap

15 Great Lake

16 Boxer's play

18 Cheap

20 Glove material

21 Halves of 38-Across

22 Coffee, mixed

23 Slightly

26 Barber's task

30 Fish eggs

31 Intent

32 Bobby of hockey fame

33 Pirate's sword

36 Nuts

38 Type squares

39 Started

40 Sports venue

43 Relief print of a sort

47 Curtail

49 Troubles

50 Chills and fever

51 Collec-tion

52 Albacore, e.g.

53 Egyptian fertility goddess

54 With 55-Across, 365 days

55 See 54-Across

DOWN

1 Detail, briefly

2 Lima's land

3 Settled down

4 Not mono

5 Sulks

6 Record-ing

7 Dadaist artist

8 More agile

9 Twitches

10 Hebrew month

11 Apportion (out)

17 "The Time Machine" tribe

19 Whatever number

22 Bread spread

23 Curved line

24 Brock or Gehrig

25 Allow

26 That man's

27 Bill's partner

28 Grecian vessel

29 Have a go at

31 Fool

34 Contacts, e.g.

35 Asian nurse-maid

36 Zodiac sign

37 Fodder for Ripley's column

39 Singer

40 Anti-oxidant berry

41 Carpets

42 Needle case

43 Small songbird

44 Hint

45 Arm bone

46 Despot

48 Bear, in Barcelona

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer 12-11

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Hailee Steinfeld, 16; Mos Def, 39; Mo'Nique, 45; Jermaine Jackson, 58.

Happy Birthday: Money, partnerships and creative solutions should be your prime concerns. Showing your determination and interest in accomplishing your goals will help you gain support. Sharing your ideas with someone in a position of influence will bring positive results. Your stamina and courage will help you see matters through to the end. Your numbers are 4, 11, 19, 23, 25, 36, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Finish overdue projects that have to do with legal, financial or health issues. Travel to whatever destinations will help you push through paperwork. Complete anything that may hold you back next year. A creative investment made now will pay off.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Make your year-end plans to ensure you don't miss visiting someone special. Traveling, communicating and sharing with the people who mean the most to you will bring you closer together. Be creative when shopping for gifts or personal items.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Ignore anyone standing in the way of your progress. It's important not to let your emotions take over, causing you to be excessive or outspoken. Job interviews look promising if you stick to the truth regarding what you can offer.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): An unusual visit or short jaunt to a destination that sparks ideas to motivate, inspire or excite the people you love will pay off. Don't let some-

one at work cause you to worry about something that is not your responsibility.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Take the stage. Set up events or whatever else you can do to win favors and boost your reputation. Don't let your insecurities or someone eager to put you down lead to waffling. You should be intent on following through with plans.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Separate your work and your personal life in order to avoid suspicious innuendoes or a scene based on unwarranted emotional over-reaction. You are best to keep the peace. Don't confuse someone's motives or capability to make you look bad.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Backtrack if it will help you put your personal matters in order. It's important to address unfinished business that entails seeing someone you have had feelings for in the past. Let your intuition guide you regarding children, loved ones and money.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You can't lose if you follow your gut feeling when it comes to personal matters. An impulsive move won't pay off, but a well-thought-out and precisely executed attempt will. An honest, heartfelt effort will lead to good fortune.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): A surprise may leave you speechless. Try not to show your emotions. Positive actions will far exceed the results you get if you are dishonest, negative or uncompromising. Focus on decorative changes you can make at home, but stick to a budget.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Join in any activity that will allow you to get to know your associates better. The chance to share your thoughts and to claim a good position among your peers will result in offering favors that will buy future support. Love is highlighted.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Listen to authority and follow the rules to avoid any mishap that might cost you personally. Don't question someone's feelings when you should be considering your motives. Positive changes at home will help your situation.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Say little, do more. Your actions will determine what others think of you. Leading someone on will not bode well in the end. Focus on family funds and putting aside cash that will allow you to share with the ones you love.

Birthday Baby: You are earnest, reliable and quick-witted. You are a loyal crusader.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Difficulty Level ★★

12/11

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

Difficulty Level ★

12/10

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

1107 DOG EATING CONTESTS Solution: 7 letters

T M R A P P M U J S E E L I P
S E E I D R L S U E Z H T H M
H S C R T U I U D R I A S C A
I S O H U U L Z C O N E C A R
R Y R O N N A T E C A B S M C
T H D R S I N L S S G R E O S
S P L N R T Q E I G R E L T E
P O B E E U U R V O A T S T
O R A U N C L F E U E D I D U
N T A K N G R E F S P V T W P
S N N F I S T O S S R E T O V
O W N I W N C H F E M I T R H
R O U N D R G E P H O T O C D
S D A A N N O U N C E R I A F
W O L L A W S P E E D R I N K

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Adults, Air Horn, Announcer, Annual, Bread, Buns, Cash, Cramp, Crowds, Down, Drink, Fair, Final, Force, Gulp, Hot Dog, Judges, Length, Live, Messy, Organize, Photo, Pile, Prizes, Race, Record, Ritual, Round, Rules, Runner Up, Scene, Scores, Setup, Soaking, Speed, Sponsors, Stomach, Stuff, Supervise, Swallow, Techniques, Time, Titles, Trophy, T-shirts, Voters, Winners

Yesterday's Answer: Disadvantage

THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD Volume 34: 343 words (including 100 words that are not in the dictionary) 12/10/11

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

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Griffin hurt, but Redskins top Ravens in OT, 31-28



LANDOVER, Maryland (AP)—

With Robert Griffin III sidelined with a sprained right knee, the Washington Redskins rallied behind backup Kirk Cousins to tie the game in the final minute of regulation, then Kai Forbath kicked a 34-yard field goal in overtime Sunday for a 31-28 victory over the Baltimore Ravens.

Griffin was hurt at the end of a 13-yard scramble while attempting to lead the game-tying drive with the Redskins trailing 28-20. He left for one play, returned for four, then was no longer able to continue.

Cousins stepped in and hit Pierre Garcon for an 11-yard touchdown pass, then ran in the 2-point conversion with 29 seconds to play.

The Redskins have won four straight to improve to 7-6. The Ravens lost back-to-back games for the first time since 2009 and fell to 9-4.

Cowboys 20, Bengals 19

In Cincinnati, the grieving Cowboys rallied for a significant win on Dan Bailey's 40-yard field goal as time ran out.

Dallas overcame a nine-point deficit in the closing minutes behind Tony Romo, who held his hand over his heart during a moment of silence to honor teammate Jerry Brown before the kickoff.

Brown died in an auto accident early Saturday. Defensive lineman Josh Brent, who was driving, remained in jail in Irving, Texas, charged with intoxication manslaughter.

The Cowboys (7-6) learned about Brown's death on their flight to Cincinnati on Saturday. Coach Jason Garrett told his team that the best way to honor him was to play well in a game with playoff implications for both teams.

A late comeback was just enough to beat the Bengals (7-6).

Romo threw a 27-yard touchdown pass to Dez Bryant, then led the drive to Bailey's kick.

Giants 52, Saints 27

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, rookie David Wilson returned a kickoff 97 yards for one touchdown, ran for two more scores and piled up 327 all-purpose yards and Eli Manning threw four touchdown passes to lead the Giants.

The win allowed New York (8-5) to maintain its one-game lead in the NFC East over Washington and Dallas. The loss all but ended the playoff hopes of Drew Brees and the Saints (5-8), who turned the ball over four times in losing their third straight.

Manning had TD passes of 6 yards to Martellus Bennett, 5 yards to Domenik Hixon, 25 yards to Hakeem Nicks and 10 yards to Victor Cruz. Wilson scored on runs of 6 and 52 yards and finished with 100 yards on 13 carries on the biggest day of his career.

Seahawks 58, Cardinals 0

In Seattle, Marshawn Lynch had three touchdown runs and Seattle set a franchise record for points. The Seahawks forced eight turnovers. Richard Sherman and Bobby Wagner each had two interceptions.

Seattle (8-5) kept firm grasp on the final NFC wild-card spot and kept alive slim chances of catching San Francisco in the NFC West race. The Seahawks also picked up their first division victory and assured coach Pete Carroll of his first eight-win season in three years with them.

The 58-0 victory was the biggest shutout in Seattle's history. Leon Washington's 3-yard TD run with 2:32 left set a franchise record for points.

Arizona (4-9) was shut out for the first time since 2003 against Seattle. The effortless performance will only raise questions about Ken Whisenhunt's future as coach. Arizona lost its ninth straight overall.

Packers 27, Lions 20

In Green Bay, Wisconsin, Green Bay is a victory away from clinching the NFC North title after beating Detroit.

DaJuan Harris rushed for a score in his first appearance for the Packers, Aaron Rodgers added the longest TD run of his career, and Mike Daniels returned a fumble 43 yards as the Packers (9-4) opened a one-game lead over Chicago. Beat the Bears next weekend at Soldier Field, and Green Bay will win the NFC North for a second straight year.

The loss was the fifth straight for Detroit (4-9). This wasn't quite as excruciating as the previous three, though, when the Lions gave up fourth-quarter leads and fell by a total of nine points.

The Packers have won 22 straight at home against the Lions, the longest streak in the NFL.

49ers 27, Dolphins 13

In San Francisco, Frank Gore ran for a 1-yard touchdown and reached 1,000 yards rushing for the sixth time in his career.

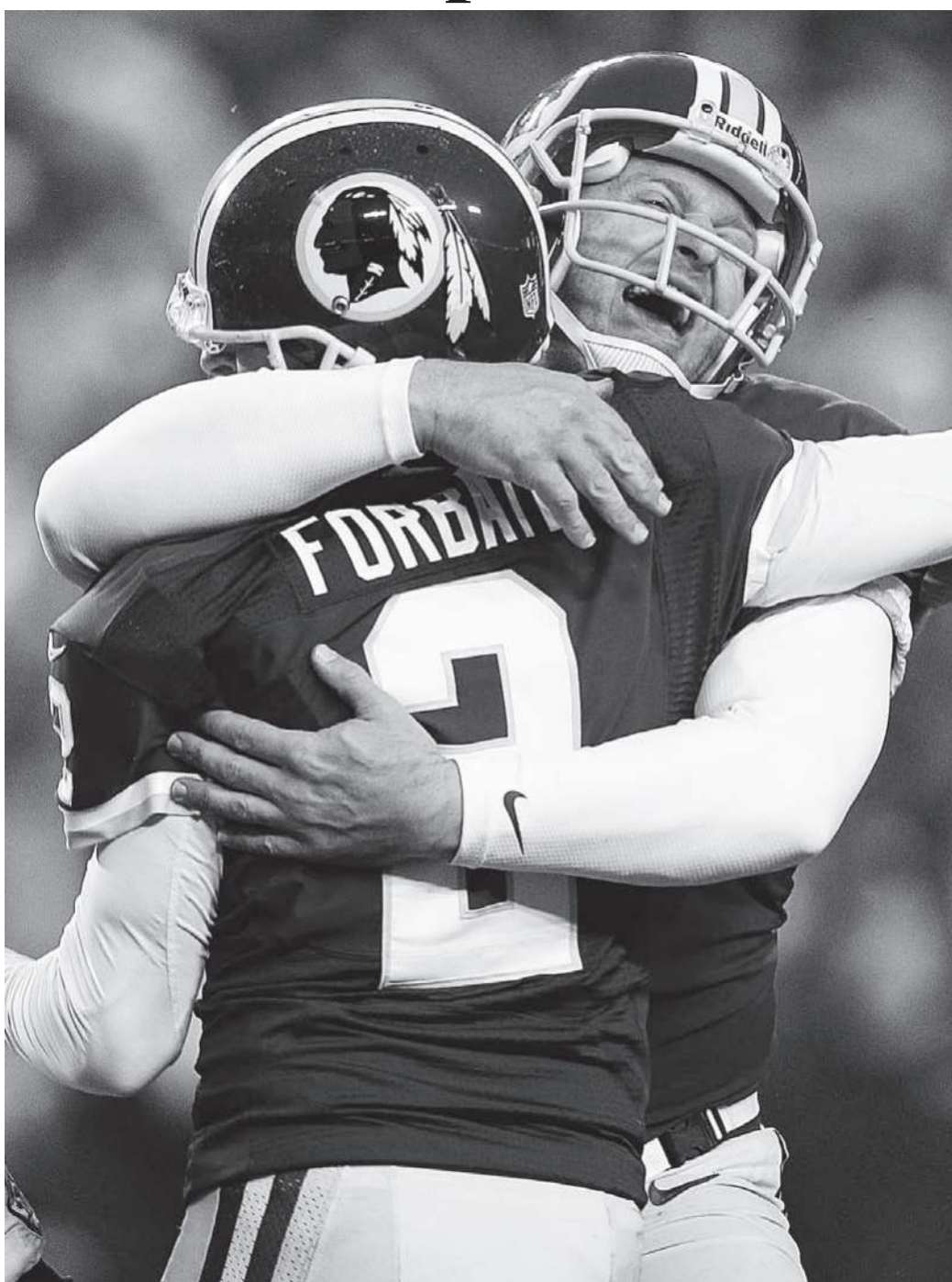
Gore finished with 63 yards, Anthony Dixon also had a 1-yard scoring run and Colin Kaepernick ran for a late 50-yard touchdown and threw for 185 yards in his fourth straight start since being promoted over Alex Smith.

NFL sacks leader Aldon Smith added two to his total for 19 1/2, passing Fred Dean's franchise-best single-season mark of 17 1/2 set in 1983. Smith also moved within three sacks of Michael Strahan's seasonal NFL record set in 2001 with the New York Giants.

Michael Crabtree had nine catches for 93 yards and rookie LaMichael James ran for 30 yards in a solid NFL debut for the 49ers (9-3-1).

Panthers 30, Falcons 20

In Charlotte, North Carolina,



Washington Redskins' Sav Rocca, right, hugs Kai Forbath (2) after Forbath's winning 34-yard field goal in overtime of an NFL football game against the Baltimore Ravens in Landover, Md., Sunday, Dec. 9, 2012.

Cam Newton threw for 287 yards and two touchdowns and scored on a 72-yard run.

Newton piled up a career-high 116 yards on the ground as the Panthers racked up 475 total yards to avenge an early-season loss with a dominating performance against the NFC South champion Falcons.

Carolina (4-9) came in with little to play for except to gain a measure of revenge on Falcons quarterback Matt Ryan, whom they felt disrespected them after Atlanta's 30-28 come-from-behind win earlier this season at the Georgia Dome.

Ryan threw for 342 yards and two scores and had a costly fourth-quarter interception.

The Panthers opened a 23-0 lead en route to snapping a five-game losing streak against the Falcons.

Vikings 21, Bears 14

In Minneapolis, Adrian Peterson rushed for 154 yards and two touchdowns and Harrison Smith returned an interception for a score.

Peterson topped 100 yards before the first quarter was over, helping the Vikings (7-6) overcome another lackluster day from quarterback Christian Ponder to get a win that will keep their faint playoff hopes alive.

Jay Cutler threw for 260 yards, one touchdown and two interceptions and couldn't finish the game for the Bears (8-5), who have lost four of their last five. He took a wicked hit to the head from Everson Griffen in the fourth quarter, remained in the game for the rest of that drive, but was replaced by Jason Campbell with 3 minutes to play.

Browns 30, Chiefs 7

In Cleveland, rookie Travis Benjamin's electrifying 93-yard punt return touchdown gave Cleveland momentum and the Browns won their third straight game.

Benjamin's game-changing runback helped the Browns (5-8) continue their resurgence under second-year coach Pat Shurmur, whose future in Cleveland remains uncertain. The Browns have one more win than last season, and their longest winning streak since 2009.

Trent Richardson had a pair of 1-yard TD runs for Cleveland.

Jamaal Charles ran for 165 yards, breaking off an 80-yard TD run on the game's first play for Kansas City.

It was the first road game for the Chiefs (2-11) following linebacker Jovan Belcher's suicide. The 25-year-old killed his girlfriend at their home before driving to the team's practice

facility on Dec. 1 and shooting himself.

Chargers 34, Steelers 24

In Pittsburgh, Philip Rivers threw three touchdown passes, two to Danario Alexander, and San Diego won for the first time in 15 regular-season visits to Pittsburgh.

The Chargers (5-8), who snapped a four-game losing streak, dominated from the outset. They never let Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger get comfortable in his first game in nearly a month.

Roethlisberger completed 22 of 42 passes for 285 yards and three second-half touchdowns. But he also threw an interception and had a botched screen pass turn into an easy San Diego score as Pittsburgh (7-6) hardly played like a team readying for a postseason run.

Colts 27, Titans 23

In Indianapolis, Andrew Luck led Indianapolis back from a 13-point second-half deficit and Adam Vinatieri made two fourth-quarter field goals.

Luck has now engineered six fourth-quarter comebacks for Indy (9-4).

It wasn't all Luck.

Delone Carter cut the deficit to 20-14 with a 1-yard TD run

on Indy's opening possession of the second half. And after Pat McAfee's 52-yard punt went out of bounds at the Titans 1-yard line, Cassius Vaughn jumped in front of Nate Washington, picked off Jake Locker's pass and scored on a 3-yard interception return to make it 21-20.

Rob Bironas gave the Titans (4-9) a 23-21 lead with a 25-yard field goal, but Vinatieri hit from 53 yards to retake the lead and from 40 to seal it.

Jets 17, Jaguars 10

In Jacksonville, Florida, Shonn Greene and Bilal Powell ran for short touchdowns and the New York Jets kept their postseason hopes alive.

The Jets (6-7) were shut out at halftime for the second consecutive week, but they didn't need to change quarterbacks to spark the offense this time.

Instead, they just pounded the Jaguars (2-11) up the middle.

Mark Sanchez, benched last week in a 7-6 win against Arizona, was hardly a factor. Neither was backup Tim Tebow, who spent his homecoming on the sideline.

Greene scored on a 1-yard plunge in the third quarter, and Powell added a 4-yarder early in the fourth. Greene finished with 77 yards rushing. Powell added 78 yards on the ground.

Eagles 23, Buccaneers 21

In Tampa, Florida, Nick Foles threw a pair of touchdown passes in the final four minutes, including a 1-yarder to Jeremy Maclin with no time remaining.

The rally allowed the Eagles to end an eight-game losing streak—their longest in 42 years.

Foles completed 32 of 51 passes for 381 yards in his fourth start in place of the injured Michael Vick. The rookie threw an 11-yard TD pass to Clay Harbor with 3:55 remaining, then led the Eagles on a 64-yard game-winning drive after the Philadelphia defense forced a Tampa Bay punt.

Doug Martin rushed for 128 yards and Josh Freeman shrugged off a slow start to throw for two second-half touchdowns to help Tampa Bay overcome a 10-0 halftime deficit and take a 21-10 lead on Martin's 4-yard TD run midway through the fourth quarter.

Rams 15, Bills 12

In Orchard Park, New York, Sam Bradford threw a 13-yard touchdown pass to Brandon Gibson with 48 seconds left.

Bradford was 5 of 8 for 68 yards to cap a 14-play, 84-yard drive. St. Louis (6-6-1) continued its late-season resurgence by winning its third straight for the first time since closing the 2006 season with three victories.

The Bills (5-8) blew a lead in the final minute of the fourth quarter for the second time this season. They squandered a six-point lead in a 35-34 loss to Tennessee on Oct. 21.

After stunning loss, Pacquiao faces tough choices

BOXING

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Manny Pacquiao has already achieved what most of his countrymen can only dream of: lifting himself out of wrenching poverty, securing a future for his children and becoming a figurehead for Filipinos all over the world.

Not content with just winning in the ring, Pacquiao has also set about making his mark as a politician.

Now after his stunning loss to Juan Manuel Marquez at Las Vegas on Saturday, the 34-year-old is facing some of the toughest questions in his remarkable 17-year career—does his future lay in boxing, politics, showbiz, religion, or is there a new challenge on the horizon?

“Being the king of boxing, being the highest paid athlete in boxing ... it goes with the territory,” boxing analyst Ed Tolentino said. “For Pacquiao, the fame was too much to handle. There was just too many things on his plate other than boxing.”

The distraction was costly for Pacquiao, who trained for only two months, compared to Marquez’s 4-1/2 months.

During that time the Mexican fighter bulked up and became more muscular to withstand the Filipino’s trademark furious blows that were so damaging in their three earlier encounters, said boxing commentator Ronnie Nathanielsz.

Pacquiao grew up a survivor and fighter in the cut-throat world of poverty and competition in a country where half of the population live on \$2 a day and 3,000 leave for jobs overseas every day.

He left high school to work as a baker and a construction worker to earn money for his mother and siblings after his father left them. As a scrawny teenager, he was a stowaway on a ship that took him from his southern hometown of General Santos City to the capital, Manila, where he took up boxing while working as a laborer.

After successful, and some less successful, local bouts, his international winning streak began in 1999 at Thailand as a 112-pound fighter. In the next decade, he became a household name by clinching eight world titles in eight weight categories. At home, he was declared a hero, “the people’s champ”—an inspiration to the legions of the poor and the man the rich and powerful wanted to rub shoulders with.

As the titles, honors and money started pouring in, so did distractions.

Politicians, movie bit players and an assortment of hangers-on formed his huge entourage.

“You only need a Ferris wheel and his training camp would have been a circus,” Tolentino said.

In a nation where celebrities, money and politics equal a winning formula, Pacquiao played his card by running for Congress in 2007, but lost.

The most popular face in town, he turned to crooning his

Referee Kenny Bayless calls the fight as he kneels over Manny Pacquiao, from the Philippines, after he was knocked out by Juan Manuel Marquez, from Mexico, during their WBO world welterweight fight Saturday, Dec. 8, 2012, in Las Vegas.

AP



own songs. His picture endorsed countless products. He’s a regular on TV, and hosts his own show. He’s made a movie. His passion was cock fighting, a traditional past time in the Philippines.

He was Pacquiao Inc.

Showbiz “takes a lot of time, a lot of energy. You have to prepare for these shows. As you get older, that kind of activity takes you physically and mentally and that may take its toll,” said Na-

thanielsz. “(Pacquiao) loses focus because he has so many things to worry about and attend to.”

Pacquiao was elected representative from his southern Sarangani province in 2010, and has announced he will run for re-election next year. Taking a cue from his political allies, he appears to be building a political dynasty, with his wife, Jinkee, running for vice governor, and younger brother, Rogelio,

for congressman in neighboring South Cotabato province.

In the meantime, he promised to clean up his act: no more gambling, drinking and womanizing, and took up preaching the Bible. Some called it a public relations stunt for a budding politician, but Pacquiao insisted it was for real.

“To those who think that way, let us leave them be. I will pray for them. Even Jesus Christ, even after he performed miracles, no

one believed him, what more for a sinner like me,” he said, adding he did not want to be a pastor but share how “the Lord changed my life.”

Then came the first blow: a controversial decision awarding his June fight to Timothy Bradley. Questions arose if Pacquiao was showing the wear of 17 years in the ring, and the distractions catching up with him.

The loss to Marquez only made the question more urgent,

although Pacquiao made no mention of a possible retirement.

“Among boxers, they don’t have the word retirement in their dictionary. It’s so hard to admit that all of sudden it’s over, especially for Pacquiao,” Tolentino said.

“His demotion was from the penthouse to the doghouse,” he added. “I think really there has to be a lot of soul searching. ... He has to consult his family, his real entourage.”

Thunder offense too much for Pacers’ D, 104-93

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Kevin Durant scored 27 points, Kevin Martin added 24 and the Oklahoma City Thunder beat the Indiana Pacers 104-93 on Sunday night for their eighth straight win.

A meeting of the NBA’s highest-scoring offense and the league’s stingiest defense went the Thunder’s way as they eclipsed 100 points for the 12th straight game.

Of course, Oklahoma City boasts the NBA’s second-best defense to go with all that offensive firepower.

Russell Westbrook added 21 points and came up with a big block against 7-foot-2 center Roy Hibbert—11 inches taller than him—during a late 8-0 burst by the Thunder that put it away after the Pacers had pulled within three.

David West had 21 points for Indiana, which had all five starters score in double figures.

Knicks 112, Nuggets 106

In New York, Carmelo Anthony returned from a two-game

absence with 34 points against his former team, and New York the NBA’s only team unbeaten at home.

Back in the starting lineup after missing two games with a cut on the middle finger of his left hand that required stitches, Anthony twice made baskets in the final 2:08 after Denver had pulled within four points.

Jason Kidd scored 17 points for the Knicks, who bounced back from their worst offensive performance of the season a night earlier in Chicago and improved to 8-0 at Madison Square Garden. Tyson Chandler and J.R. Smith each had 15 points.

Ty Lawson had 23 points and Danilo Gallinari had 21 points and nine rebounds against the team that drafted him and later dealt him in the package for Anthony in February 2011.

Jazz 117, Lakers 110

In Los Angeles, Paul Millsap scored 24 points, Mo Williams added 22 and Utah won its third straight.

Kobe Bryant led the Lakers with 34 points, making 12 of 14

free throws, as they fell to 4-7 in their last 11 games.

Al Jefferson and reserves Gordon Hayward and Enes Kanter added 14 points each for the Jazz, which improved to 4-9 on the road in ending a two-game skid away from home.

The Lakers never led in the second half while losing their second in a row. They trailed by three to start the fourth quarter only to get outscored 20-8 and fall behind by 15. Hayward had seven points and Kanter six in Utah’s spurt.

Magic 98, Suns 90

In Phoenix, rookie Andrew Nicholson scored nine of his career-high 19 points in the fourth quarter and Orlando handed Phoenix its seventh straight loss.

Nicholson made 9 of 11 shots and grabbed nine rebounds, also the best of his young career.

J.J. Redick scored 17 of his 20 points in the first half for the Magic in the final stop of their five-game road trip.

Shannon Brown scored 17 and Jared Dudley 15 for the Suns, who were without starting point guard Goran Dragic

due to illness.

Phoenix’s losing streak is its longest since 2004.

Bucks 97, Nets 88

In New York, Brandon Jennings scored 26 points, Monta Ellis had 24 points and Milwaukee withstood Brooklyn’s fourth-quarter rally.

The Bucks led by 29 points with 6:59 left in the third quarter but the Nets got within six after Deron Williams found Kris Humphries open for an uncontested dunk.

Ellis’ layup then made it 87-79 before the Nets called a timeout with 2:24 left in regulation. On the ensuing play, Gerald Wallace lost his balance and the ball and Milwaukee’s Larry Sanders made a reverse layup to extend the Bucks’ lead to 10 points. MarShon Brooks, who scored 14 points, then hit a 3-pointer to bring the Nets within seven but Marquis Daniels’ hit a 3-pointer to put the game out of reach.

Williams had 18 points and eight assists and Wallace added 16 points and 16 rebounds for the Nets.

Clippers 102, Raptors 83

In Los Angeles, Jamal Crawford led a fourth-quarter rally by the reserves with 16 points and the Clippers won their sixth in a row and handed Toronto its 10th consecutive road loss.

The backups gave the Clippers their first double-digit lead of the game after Toronto kept it close through the first three periods before dropping its fourth straight and 10th in its last 11. The Raptors have just four wins this season.

Eric Bledsoe added 14 points to help the Clippers’ reserves outscore their counterparts 47-24.

Blake Griffin led the Clippers with 19 points. Chris Paul added 16 points and DeAndre Jordan had 10 rebounds. Caron Butler was the only starter to play in the fourth, coming in only after Matt Barnes was ejected with 1:36 to play.

Toronto’s DeMar DeRozan scored 24 points in his hometown. Linas Kleiza, who started in place of injured Mickael Pietrus, added 17 points, including five 3-pointers. Amir Johnson had 11 points and 12 rebounds for Toronto.

MISO holds meetings for upcoming sports lineup

By **WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND**
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REPORTER

The Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization is gearing up for its second lineup of sports activities of the 2012-2013 season with a pair of important technical meetings today at the Marianas High School Gymnasium where it will go over the groundwork for the upcoming boys basketball and girls volleyball seasons.

The basketball meeting will be held at 4:30pm immediately followed by the volleyball gathering at 5:15pm; all participating teams must have at least one representative present.

Notably, this year MISO organizers have added a new

freshmen division to the boys basketball field, which so far, consists of four teams.

As of last week, the varsity field banners six squads, which includes Saipan Southern High School's defending regular season champion Manta Rays along with the MHS Dolphins, the Kagman High School Ayuyus, the Mount Carmel School Knights, the Saipan International School Geckos, and the Grace Christian Academy Eagles.

Meanwhile, SSHS, MHS, and KHS represent the junior varsity participants, while MCS will join the trio in the new freshmen division.

There is a 15-player maximum per each freshmen and

junior varsity roster with each varsity squad being limited to 12 players.

Freshmen and JV games will be played under four 10-minute quarters formatted with "running time" except for the last two minutes of each half, while the varsity games will utilize a standard "stop clock" format for each 10-minute quarter; overtime periods will be set at 5 minutes apiece with the stop clock in effect.

Freshmen games will be played at 4pm followed by the JV and varsity features, accordingly.

This year's girls volleyball field features seven teams, to date, with as many as four more unconfirmed hopefuls that may

get added into the mix.

SIS' two-time champion varsity Lady Geckos are returning along with their junior Lady Geckos counterparts, while MHS is also expected to suit up two squads.

The other tentative crews include the Lady Manta Rays of SSHS, KHS' Lady Ayuyus and GCA's Lady Eagles with the MCS Lady Knights, Marianas Baptist Academy, Agape Christian School, and Eucon possibly joining in on the action.

Past volleyball seasons implemented a three-set series, per match, with game-point assigned at 25 for the first two sets with a cap limit at 30. The third and final set is traditionally played out to 15 with the cap limit removed.

Aside from cap-limit scenarios, teams must win by two to be awarded the set.

Furthermore, during the regular season the third set will be played, regardless.

The aforementioned listings of participating schools, for both seasons, are unofficial; however all parties have expressed initial interest in turning out.

The respective starting dates and game schedules are also still being determined.

Moreover, Tinian High School and Rota High School are expected to appear in the both post season tournaments.

Contact MISO president Nick Gross at 287-4767 or email nickgross07@gmail.com for more information.

BACK-TO-BACK

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mixed doubles BC pairing, 21-23, 21-6, 21-17.

Despite taking the champi-

onship early, SBC still went for the kill, winning the three remaining games to complete the Day 2 sweep.

Choi played her second game and teamed up with

Mario Diola in defeating Anna Omori and Santos in the mixed doubles A, 21-6, 21-16. SBC's fourth win of the day came from Oh and Ortega, who slipped past Jordan Pan-

gelinan and Jen Savellano in the mixed doubles B, 18-21, 21-19, 21-18. Lee and Choi capped the SBC sweep after thwarting Anna Alvarez and Saturno in two games (official

scores were unavailable) in the women's doubles AB.

Meanwhile, in the battle for third place, the Berks Blazers edged Shirley's/Colgate Badminton Club, 6-4.

IFC-1

From Page 28

Regardless of the results of its final match, IFC-1 will remain in the No. 1 spot, as its closest pursuer, Matansa FC has only 28 points. Matansa owns a 9-1-3 card and could only get as much as 31 points if it wins in last game tomorrow against Paire.

In Division A, Shirley's kept its perfect record (7-0) after defeating Paire FC (1-0-4), 4-2, last Friday. Shirley's is ahead by four wins against IFC and MP United, which holds similar 3-0-4, and will go for a sweep tomorrow when it duels MP United at 7:30pm.

Shirley's drew goals from four different players to beat Paire. Jhaneeka Atalig convert-

ed first for Shirley's at the 13th minute, while Jeralyn Castillo scored, too four minutes later. After being cold in the first half, Paire finally made it to the board and even tied the match, 2-all, with Connie Camacho scoring just two minutes into the second frame and Natalie Hill drilling the equalizer five minutes later.

However, Shirley's would not be denied, as Charlene Lizardo answered with the go-ahead goal in the 29th and Jeraldine Castillo nailed the insurance in the 38th minute.

Meanwhile, four other games were completed in the league's Wednesday and Friday schedules.

WEDNESDAY

IFC-2 7, MPU-2 0

In the second match in Divi-

sion B, IFC-2 showed no mercy to MPU-2.

Yvonne Indalecio, Vanessa Gramlich, Mary Joyce Mag-songsong, Mel Borja, and Co-quina Teregyo scored one goal apiece in IFC-2's lopsided win. IFC-2 was also credited with a goal off MPU-2's error to improve to a 2-2-9 record for seventh place in the eight-team field. MPU-2 is at the bottom of the team standings with its dismal 0-0-13 card.

Shirley's 7, Paire 6

Shirley's (7-4-2) moved up from fourth to third place after slipping past Paire (5-3-5).

Shirley's held its ground on defense in the last 10 minutes of play to thwart Paire's comeback bid.

Behind 3-7, Paire threatened

Shirley's after scoring three straight goals in less than one minute. Kate Campbell made the first one at the 39:20 mark, while Clarissa Mobel converted the second one at 39:50 and then just five seconds later Paire was only down by one after Guinevere Borja got her fourth goal in the game.

However, Shirley's recovered from the defensive lapses and silenced Paire in the remaining minutes of the closely fought match.

FRIDAY

Matansa 3, Tan Holdings 1

In the lone Division B game last Friday, Bernadette Horey recorded a hat-trick to lift Matansa to victory over Tan Holdings.

Horey's first goal came in the seventh minute and three minutes later, she earned her second one

for Matansa's 2-0 lead. Krizel Tuazon's goal in the 12th minute moved Tan Holdings (3-4-6) within one at halftime, however that was the closest it could get, while Horey completed the hat-trick with another goal just two minutes into the second half.

MP United 2, IFC 1

In the other Division A match last weekend, MP United out-classed IFC.

A penalty kick from Kyla Ito with less than five minutes left in the match lifted MP United past IFC.

Negahr Rastguay nailed the other goal for MP United three minutes before the first half buzzer sounded. Lindsay Davis then tied the match in the second half with his goal in the 40th before Ito came to MP United's rescue.

BIG

From Page 28

ropes with a second left in the sixth round that could be felt all the way in the rafters of the MGM Grand arena.

It will go down among the great fights of their era. But it was barely over when the cry arose for the two ever-so-will-ing warriors to do it again.

When it comes to Pacquiao and Marquez, four fights may not be enough.

"If you give us a chance, we'll fight again," Pacquiao said. "I was just starting to feel confident and then I got careless."

Indeed, the case could be made that Pacquiao was on the verge of a big win himself when Marquez landed the punch that sent him falling face first on the canvas. He had come back from a third round knockdown to drop Marquez in the fifth and was landing big left hands that broke and bloodied the Mexican's nose.

After three fights that all went the distance both fighters had vowed to be more aggressive in their fourth meeting. Pacquiao ended up paying the price for it

when he tried to close the sixth round with a flurry, a big mistake against a counterpuncher who drew him into his sights.

"I knew Manny could knock me out at any time," Marquez said. "I threw the perfect punch."

Pacquiao, who hadn't been stopped in a fight since 1999 in Thailand when he was a 112-pounder, took several minutes to come around on the canvas before being led to his ring stool. He blew his nose and stared vacantly ahead as the pro-Marquez crowd of 16,348 screamed in excitement.

He was taken to the hospital for a precautionary brain scan, then went to his hotel suite, where he ate with wife Jinkee and his entourage and watched a replay of the fight to see what went wrong.

"Spoiler alert," Pacquiao said as the fight played on the TV. "I don't think you are going to like how this ends."

His countrymen in the Philippines certainly didn't. The country came to a standstill as it usually does when its hero fights, and for the second fight in a row they were bitterly disappointed.

In the southern region where the boxer and congressman lives, some survivors of a powerful typhoon that killed more than 600 people this week watched on a big TV screen in a gym that serves as an emergency shelter in the town of New Bataan.

"People were really dismayed," town spokesman Marlon Esperanza said. "It was like they were hit by another typhoon."

What Marquez hit Pacquiao with might have seemed almost as powerful. Pacquiao had dropped Marquez four times in their first three fights, but Marquez had never put him down before he landed a big right hand in the third round for his first knockdown. The power was sure to raise questions about the new bulked-up physique Marquez has at the age of 39, which he said came from hard work under a strength conditioner who once provided steroids to Marion Jones and other track stars.

Still, it was a career-defining moment for Marquez, who believes he was robbed by the judges in his first three fights with Pacquiao. The two fought to a draw eight years ago at

125 pounds and Pacquiao was awarded close decisions in the other two fights.

It was clear there would be no need for the judges on this night, which might have been good for Marquez since he was losing by one point on all three scorecards when he landed his big punch.

The only question was which fighter would end the night on the canvas.

It turned out to be Pacquiao, who lost a controversial decision in his last fight to Timothy Bradley and who many in boxing believe is showing the wear of 17 years in the ring. For any other fighter the knockout loss might be the end, but Pacquiao showed no sign afterward that he was willing to call it quits on his remarkable career and return to his other job as a congressman in the Philippines.

Trainer Freddie Roach said the decision won't be an easy one.

"I said if he is back in the gym and I see signs of him declining I'll tell him to retire, but if I don't see that I won't tell him to retire," Roach said. "I'd love to get a rematch, but is that the best move right away? Should

we try him out in a softer fight first? There is a lot of things we have to think about. It's very complicated, and it's not going to be overnight."

One thing the stunning loss did do was scuttle, perhaps forever, what would have been the richest fight in boxing history. With Pacquiao now damaged goods, any fight against Floyd Mayweather Jr. would be fought for a lot less money and generate a lot less interest than if it had happened with Pacquiao still on his winning streak and still in his prime.

Pacquiao's career may not be over. If postfight comments from both fighters and promoter Bob Arum were any indication, he and Marquez will more than likely fight for a fifth time. There's too much money to be had and the fighter in Pacquiao will surely want a chance at redemption.

That will be a hot topic of discussion in the months ahead. For now, though, one thing is for sure.

On this night, one huge right hand from Marquez changed everything.

SSC Jingle Bell Fun Run tomorrow



S a i p a n

Swim Club

will be hold-

ing the 2012

Jingle Bell Fun Run tomorrow.

The annual fundraiser that former SSC coach Michael Stewart started eight years ago is open for all ages of runners and walkers. The course is 4.5K or 2.7 miles on the sidewalk starting at the Minachom Atdao pavilion across from the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, with the turnaround at the WWII tank at Quartermaster Road.

According to SSC, this year's course has been changed to a loop so that the start and finish are in the same location, which is the finish line for the past Jingle Bell runs.

Registration starts at 4pm and race begins at 5pm. T-shirts will be given to the first 100 registrants and there will be raffle drawing at the end of the race. Entrance fee is only \$15. **(PR)**

MINI GAMES

From Page 28

is planning to send a five-men team and one coach to the French territory, while sailing did not name its representatives, but if it decides to compete, Tony Stearns and wife Janet are expected to carry the CNMI colors to the Mini Games.

Notably, Northern Marianas Athletics did not submit a letter of intent to neither competition and NMASA president Michael White expressed disappointment over NMA's decision.

"I am quite disappointed that athletics did not submit a letter of intent, especially for the University Games. We have several college student-athletes who deserve to compete in Kazan. Athletics did a disservice to these athletes," White said.

Saipan Tribune asked NMA for comments about its decision not to commit to either the Mini Games or University Games, but has yet to respond at press time.

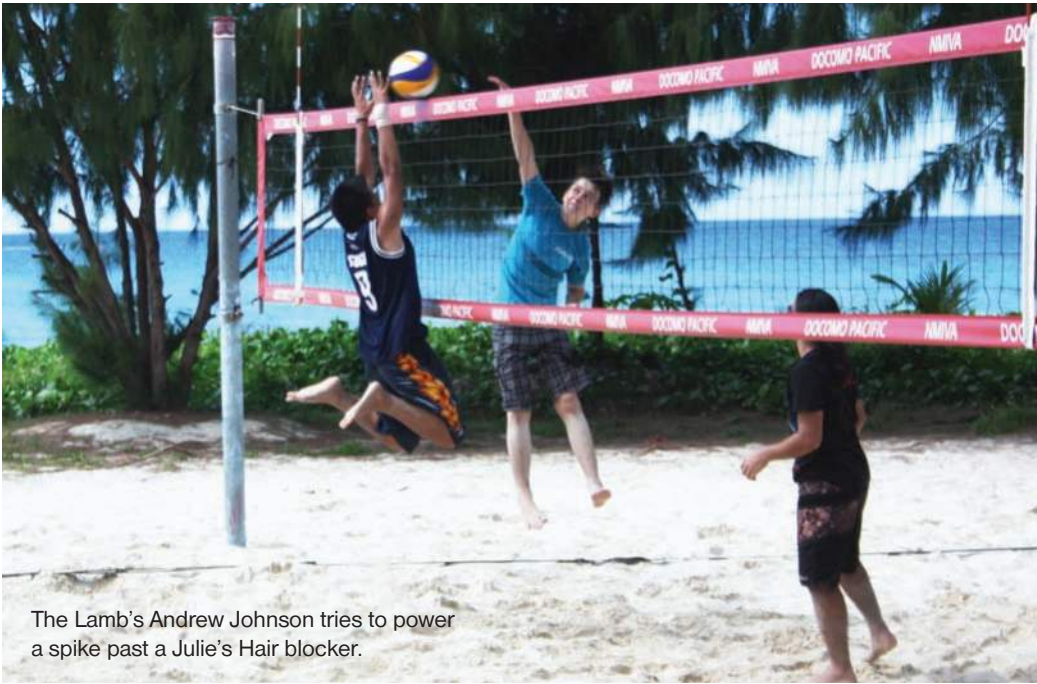
Meanwhile, NMASA has a new member in the Northern Mariana Islands Karatedo Federation.

The group headed by Fumiyasu Ishiguro sought membership to NMASA a few months ago and after completing the necessary documents and attending last Thursday's meeting, it was officially welcomed to the mother sports organization of the CNMI.

White, Bimbrich, tennis' Jeff Race, baseball's Rose Igitol, golf's Jess Wabol, and basketball's Tony Rogolifoi voted in favor of accepting karatedo's application for membership in NMASA.

Ishiguro, through interpreter Yoshi Suzuki, said one of the group's goals is to train local talents to prepare them for regional competitions.

PHOTOS BY WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND



The Lamb's Andrew Johnson tries to power a spike past a Julie's Hair blocker.



U18 finalists The Lambs and Julie's Hair pose for a group photo after the conclusion of their championship game in NMIVA's 3rd Training Clinic Beach Volleyball Tournament last Nov. 24 at the Fiesta Resort & Spa beach courts.



NMIVA's Amy McRoberts was presented with a Federation De Volleyball International (FIVB) "Heroes" T-shirt as a token of gratitude by NMIVA for all of her hard work as a volunteer.

The image displays a central TPGA Sports magazine cover for October-December 2011, featuring a young golfer, Leina Kim. Surrounding this central cover are several other magazine covers, some partially visible, showing various sports-related content. Four yellow callout boxes with arrows point to specific features of the central cover:

- + wide readership**: Points to the large, vibrant image of the golfer.
- + lengthy shelf life**: Points to the masthead 'TPGA SPORTS'.
- + optimum distribution**: Points to the text 'BASKETBALL TEAMS' NAMES: WHAT'S THAT ABOUT?' at the top.
- + outstanding ad design and print quality**: Points to the overall layout and design of the cover.

The central cover includes the following text:

- BASKETBALL TEAMS' NAMES: WHAT'S THAT ABOUT?**
- TPGA SPORTS**
- OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2011**
- LEINA KIM** MAKES HER DAD PROUD
- THE STILL INCREDIBLE CECILIA**
- PLUS** POOL SAFETY TAKE A HIKE GOOD DART
- KEVIN 'THE BIG HIT' FITAL TAKES STOCK**
- BRUCE BERLINE'S BALANCING ACT**

At the bottom of the image, a large yellow banner reads:

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To inquire about ad rates or to place an ad, call (670) 235-2440, 235-6397, 235-8747.

After stunning loss, Pacquiao faces tough choices

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Griffin hurt, but Redskins top Ravens in OT, 31-28

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28 TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2012

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Back-to-back for SBC

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan Badminton Club continued its dominance in the Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament after routing the Golden Racquets, 9-1, in the finale of the 2012 edition of the annual event over the weekend at the TSL Sports Complex.

After being undefeated in the round-robin elimination, SBC nearly swept the Golden Racquets in the finals to claim back-to-back championships in the team competition. The two-time champion won last year's event against the Berks Blazers, also in a lopsided fashion, 11-0.

Sam Jones and Glenn Blautjens started SBC's title defense bid with a 23-21, 21-21 victory over Edwin Maratas and Noli Santos in the men's doubles A last Friday. SBC went on to win three of the last four matches in the first day of the championship duel to gain momentum going into last Saturday's finale.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan Badminton Club's Oh Im Bog receives a serve during his and Alma Ortega's mixed doubles B game against the Golden Racquets' Jordan Pangelinan and Jen Savellano in the finals of the Traders Insurance badminton tournament last Saturday at the TSL Sports Complex.

Oh Im Bog and Jexler Caranto gave SBC its second win in Day 1 of the finals after thumping Roger Vales and Vic Regis in the men's doubles B, 21-11, 21-6. Kanata Omori and Jordan Pangelinan then ended the Golden Racquets' two-game losing skid after sweeping Joel Ortega and Son Jae Ok in the men's doubles C, 21-18, 21-18.

Alma Ortega and Diane Francisco then brought SBC back on track with a 21-9, 21-10 triumph over Janelle Pangelinan and Jen Savellano in the women's doubles C. SBC also had the last say in Day 1 with Joel Ortega and Caranto topping Omori and Jordan Pangelinan in the men's doubles BC, 21-10, 21-15.

With its 4-1 lead after the first half of the finals, SBC needed only two wins in the last five matches to prevail in the championship showdown and wrapped up the series early with the pairs of Hannah Choi and Caranto and Oh and Julie Lee delivering the title-clinching victories.

Choi and Caranto played in the first game last Saturday and made short work of Santos and Cheng Saturno in the mixed doubles A, 21-15, 21-14, to move one win away from securing the championship.

Then in the second game, SBC celebrated, as Oh and Lee survived the father-and-daughter tandem of Jojo and Jen Savellano in a three-game



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The CNMI outrigger canoe team is seen here about to complete a race in the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau. The Commonwealth paddlers are interested in competing in the 2013 Mini Games in Wallis & Futuna.

4 groups eye Mini Games, University Games stint

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Four local sports associations have signified their intention to represent the CNMI in two off-island competitions next year.

The Northern Marianas Kanu Racing Association, Over the Reef Yacht Club, Refaluwasch Golfers Association, and the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association during the NMASA meeting last Thursday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium's conference room submitted letters of expression of interest for the 2013 University Games and 2013 Pacific Mini Games.

For the 2013 University Games that will run from July 6 to 17 in Kazan, Russia,

RGA is planning to send two athletes—L.J. Camacho and Franco Santos. The volleyball group has also expressed its interest in the beach volleyball competition of the FISU-sanctioned event, but did not name its representatives or indicated whether it will send a men's or women's team or both.

The local volleyball association submitted the same letter of intent for the 2013 Pacific Mini Games, which will be held in Wallis & Futuna from Sept. 2 to 12. Kanu and ORYC (sailing) are the two other groups that beat the deadline for the submission of letter of expression for next year's Mini Games.

Gilbert Birnbrich said Kanu See **MINI GAMES** on Page 26



IFC-1, Shirley's rule futsal league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Independents Football Club-1 and Shirley's FC secured the division titles in the 2012 NMIFA Women's Futsal Fall League after notching separate wins last



week at the TSL Sports Complex. IFC-1 took the Division B championship after edging MP United-1, 1-0, last Wednesday, off Ferleen Esmundo's goal in the second half. IFC-1 now holds a 10-2-1 win-draw-loss record for 32 points, and was scheduled to close out its fall season campaign last night when it faced sister team IFC-2.

See **IFC-1** on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Shirley's goalie Angie Ito rolls the ball, while teammate Jhaneeka Atalig looks on during their game against Paire in the first round of Division A of the NMIFA futsal league at the TSL Sports Complex.

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TIM DAHLBERG
AP Boxing Writer

Tim Dahlberg is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press.



Big knockout may set up Pacquiao-Marquez again

TIM DAHLBERG
AP BOXING WRITER

LAS VEGAS (AP)—The idea of Manny Pacquiao being knocked out cold was shocking enough. The sight of him face down on the canvas, unresponsive even as bedlam broke out all around him, was positively frightening.

Mitt Romney saw it up close from his ringside seat just a few feet away. So did Pacquiao's wife, who broke down in tears and tried to get in the ring to aid her downed husband.

Juan Manuel Marquez didn't even bother to look. He was already busy celebrating the knockout of a lifetime.

This was boxing at its brutal best, a toe-to-toe slugfest Saturday night that was destined from the opening bell to be decided by fists instead of judges. Both fighters had been down, and both fighters were hurting when Marquez threw a right hand off the

See **BIG** on Page 26